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What a sizzler

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That's neat – tiger feat accomplished at zoo

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£50k boost

Fighting chance for amateur boxing club

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JOY OVER U-TURN ON GRASS CUTTING

By Adam Burling

RESIDENTS today said they were "delighted" after Dudley Council revealed it would change its mind and cut grass verges that were left overgrown for a year as the authority tried to save £30,000.

The council upset families last summer when it announced it had stopped cutting grass on all steep banks. Residents were then warned not to cut the grass themselves because of health and safety legislation. But the council has now said it will start cutting the verges again in April.

Residents have battled for the last year to get the 200ft bank cut along the A491 in Wordsley – and local businesses have ended up paying for the work.

They wanted to do it themselves but were warned against it by the council due to safety fears.

So Michelle New, landlady at the Queens Head pub in Wordsley High Street, agreed to fund the work.

Carol Bradley, of nearby Coldstream Drive, said: "It's brilliant news and it shows what can be achieved when the community gets together.

"We are grateful to Councillor Harley and it's amazing that, even when council tax has been frozen for the coming year, they have managed to find the funds when they kept telling us last year there was no money available.

Struggle

"We have had to struggle to get the grass cut ourselves over the last year and now we know the council will do it, as it should be."

Residents were furious when it emerged that the authority was continuing to cut grass on 30 banks outside council homes, using money from a different budget to the one that was slashed.

Some of the rent paid by residents goes into the council's housing revenue budget to pay for the upkeep of the verges.

Council transport chief Patrick Harley said the £30,000 would come from extra savings being made by replacing street lights centralising maintenance services at the Lister Road depot.

Councillor Harley said: "I know this is a very important issue for a lot of people and has left them very angry.

"Sometimes we need to look at decisions that have been made and realise the impact they have had on residents."

Millions will be spent to save energy

MILLIONS of pounds will be spent fitting energy-efficient heating systems as well as new kitchens, bathrooms and kitchens at council houses across the Dudley borough.

The council has announced a programme of improvements to be carried out at hundreds of properties over the next five years.

Under the plans around £8million will be spent replacing 750 electric storage heating systems with new, modern efficient gas heating ones.

Central heating will also be installed in 600 homes while 800 boilers will be upgraded or replaced.

Workers will also be replacing around 3,500 kitchens or bathrooms in a £12m programme of internal improvements.

It includes replacing more than £4m of windows with modern, energy-efficient double glazed units each year between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

Around £13m will be spent adapting houses for people with disabilities.

The council has also included in the budget around £55m of improvements in empty properties to ensure they can be relet. A report detailing the work in the council's Dudley Housing Capital Programme has been drawn up and will go before members at a meeting on Monday.

Sarah puts training to the test

Sarah Oakley preparing to raise money for Cancer Research by running the London Marathon

A FIRST-TIME marathon runner is preparing to put her training to the test in the hope of raising cash for charity.

Sarah Oakley, a member of Stourbridge Running Club, first put on her running shoes in June last year.

And now the 37-year-old, who is an administration assistant with Dudley Council's youth education team, is gearing up to pound the streets in the London Marathon in aid of Cancer Research UK on April 22.

She needs to raise a minimum of £2,000 for the charity to be able to join the race but is well on the way to meeting the target after raising more than £900 during a collection at Sainsbury's, Merry Hill.

Heart

Miss Oakley, said: "I chose Cancer Research because it's a worthwhile charity which is close to my heart as I have known and worked with people who have had cancer.

"It's something that affects a lot of people. I want to raise as much money as possible for the charity.

"I am so grateful to everyone who has donated and for Sainsbury's letting me collect at the store."

Councillor Liz Walker, cabinet member for children's services, said: "I think it's fantastic that Sarah is running this marathon for such a worthy cause.

To sponsor Miss Oakley, go to www.runningsponsorme.org/sarahoakley

Motorists disrupted as flooding hits roads

TORRENTS of water spilled out on a busy road in Netherton after a culvert became blocked, causing disruption as a main route was sealed off.

Part of Coppice Lane was closed for two days as council staff were drafted in to pump out and clear the culvert.

The flood caused traffic delays near the Merry Hill shopping centre at rush hour on Monday.

Timings of the traffic lights in the area were changed to ease traffic flow on Tuesday.

Three pumps were operating since torrents of water spilled out onto the junction of Coppice Lane and Saltwells Road at 8.45am on Monday.

Dudley Council said some drivers had misjudged the levels of water on Monday morning and got stuck.

The AA was called out to help remove the vehicles and get motorists back on their way.

People living along the closed road were being permitted access to and from their properties.

Dudley Council spokesman Jill Wakeman said some damage had been caused to the roadway and this would have to be addressed before it was reopened.

It is not known what has caused the blockage.

NHS base at threat of axe

NATIONAL Health Service headquarters in Dudley and Walsall could close with staff moved to other parts of the Black Country under a shake-up of services.

Hundreds of staff would be moved to Sandwell and Wolverhampton as part of the reorganisation of primary care trusts.

St John's House, which is the main offices for NHS Dudley in Union Street, and NHS Walsall's HQ Jubilee House, Bloxwich Lane, could fully or partly shut.

Meetings on future of home planned

CAMPAIGNERS are to have face-to-face meetings with officials leading a consultation into the future of a closure-threatened care home in Kingswinford.

They demanded talks with charity Age UK Dudley which has been tasked with investigating the possibilities regarding New Bradley Hall.

Dudley Council had earmarked the home for closure, but recently called for a rethink over the decision and launched a consultation.

Five meetings will be held throughout March by members of the charity. This will form part of the 12-week consultation.

Charity chief officer Sally Huband said issues raised during the focus group events will contribute to cThe first opportunity will be on March 7 at Age UK Sedgley's base, in Ettymore Road, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. On March 8 one will be held at The Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton from 10.30am t 12.30pm.

Age UK Dudley's Merry Hill centre will host events on March 10 from 10.30am to 12.30pm and March 12 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. The final event will be held near the care home at Kingswinford Community Centre, in Kingswinford high street, on March 19 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Night and day parking

MOTORISTS are now able to park around the clock in a Stourbridge multi-storey car park after council officers closed off another in preparation for a major development.

The Ryemarket multi-storey, off the ring road, will be open 24 hours a day under plans revealed by Dudley Council. The demolition is part of a £50 million development of the Crown Centre, incorporating a new Tesco supermarket.

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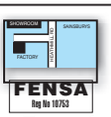

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Jack still lives his life in the fast lane at 104

Cheers! Jack Jones raises a glass as he celebrates his 104th birthday with family and friends

JACK Jones says he's always "worked hard and played hard" and now, at the ripe old age of 104, he is staying true to form.

He still going to the pub and enjoying "dates" with a posse of female admirers.

Jack, who lives at Accord Housing Association's Enville Place retirement scheme in Short Street, Stourbridge, did not give up his job as a long-distance van driver until he was 78. And he has had two parties since turning 104 on Sunday of last week – one on the big day itself, attended by friends, including several ladies with whom he enjoys social events, and the other with residents from Enville Place.

"I've always worked hard and played hard, which is why I think I have reached this age," said Jack.

"I had an exceptionally good marriage, which lasted for nearly 50 years, to my wife, Winn, who died 22 years ago. And since then I have enjoyed going out with ladies."

He describes Adele Cleeton, aged 60, of Kingswinford, who sometimes takes him out to restaurants and the theatre, as his "sweetheart" – but she stresses it is a "platonic" friendship.

West Bromwich Albion fan Jack, who was born in Enville, near Stourbridge, later moved with his family to Churchill and then Hackman's Gate, both near Hagley.

He passed his driving test at 17 and travelled all over the country – not stopping driving until he was aged 96.

And once a week he still goes to meet old pals at The Greyhound pub in Norton Road, Stourbridge.

Jack Jones in 1956 when he was 49

Steve stays top of list

A STOURBRIDGE author's novel is number one for a sixth week running – the longest stint for a debut paperback for five years.

Sales of Before I Go To Sleep by Steve Watson have rocketed since it was chosen as the featured book in ex-This Morning TV presenters Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan's Book Club.

The 40-year-old audiology specialist wrote the novel while working in London. It reached the top of the Sunday Times paperback charts six months after it was released – and has stayed there ever since.

Paperback sales have passed 120,000, with 20,000 hardbacks and electronic versions sold. The last debut to spend longer at number one was The Island by Victoria Hislop – which managed eight weeks.

Firm put into administration

AN ENGINEERING and shopfitting group based in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, has gone into administration.

David Bennett and David Dunckley, of Grant Thornton, have been appointed joint administrators of Estrella Group, of Mill Pool, Nash lane. Estrella was founded in 2004.

Talk to society

A TALK, Overland to India, will be given to Wordsley History Society by Edwin Shore at 7.30pm on March 8 at Wordsley Community Centre, Wordsley Green.

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Walking to 'healthy hub' proves no minute waltz

Linda Powell checks out the fingerpost signs outside Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

A COUNCIL-RUN keep fit centre in Stourbridge has set a tough target for couch potatoes – just to reach it. The "healthy hub" in Mary Stevens Park encourages people to take more physical exercise.

By Heather Large

But for some people the fitness regime starts before they even reach the centre due to signs which underestimate the time it takes to reach it.

To point the way to the hub, six cast-iron fingerposts have been put up in the surrounding areas.

But the sign at one park entrance says it is just a one-minute walk away.

In fact, it would take an averagely-fit person almost three times longer.

The hub is one of five launched by Dudley Council with the aim of increasing fitness among residents as part of the Government's Healthy Towns initiative.

Items

Housed in a new building, with changing facilities, community room, ranger's office and toilets, the hub is a meeting spot for regular, free-of-charge fitness classes and guided walks around the park and further afield.

Outside, there are nine items of gym equipment, including cycling machines, pull-up bars and treadmills, on which people can work out at any hour.

The fingerpost outside the gates in Love Lane, close to the junction with Corser Street, indicates with a pictogram of a walking figure that the "healthy hub" is just a one minute stroll across the park.

But Linda Powell, aged aged 55, of nearby Oakleigh Road, said: "When I first saw the sign, I thought it didn't seem possible to walk it in a minute – so I timed it.

"I made a brisk descent of a flight of steps, and then a steep grassy bank, and it took me 2mins 48seconds to reach the 'healthy hub'.

"I'm a keen hill walker and a member of Dudley Kingswinford Ladies' Running Club so I'm pretty fit.

"I firmly believe in keeping fit. But it is counter-productive for the council to say it's a one-minute walk, when it takes much longer."

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said the fingerposts were a way of encouraging more walking between the hub and other parts of the town.

"The estimated times also aim to show people it is often quicker to walk than they realise," he said.

"Walking times will be different for everyone, but all needs and abilities are considered and are based on an average pace."

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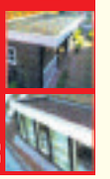

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Group is set up to thwart vandalism at popular park

Labour candidate Derrick Hemmingsley in King George V Wordsley Park

A CAMPAIGN group has been launched to help beat anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering in a popular Stourbridge park.

The 'Friends of Wordsley Park' has been set up by Labour candidate Derrick Hemingsley in a bid to help residents improve and develop their green space.

Mr Hemingsley blames high youth unemployment for the many issues that residents have raised.

He believes that boredom and cuts to youth services are causing young people to congregate in the park, causing littering of cans and bottles and drug use.

The group's first aim is to establish a committee, with the help of church and youth club leaders. They can then raise money to implement their plans with the possibility of putting on events in the park.

Vision

Mr Hemingsley said: "My vision is to see the park being utilised for all ages.

"I believe that 'Friends of Wordsley Park' will have a major impact on the local community for the better."

Councillor Geoffrey Southall, one of the Conservative Councillors for the Wordsley District, pointed out that money had been spent on the park in recent years as part of the Liveability fund, on both the Century Garden and a multi-use games area.

He acknowledged that there was an obvious degree of disruption caused by the park yet there was no particular evidence of alcohol consumption or crime.

Councillor Southall said: "A dispersal order was called for in the park but the complaints received were not of the correct nature or quantity to warrant the order.

"Police would rather the youths be contained in the park than on the streets."

There have been two committees over the years which have attempted to look after the park but Councillor Southall commented that support was lacking when he last approached the issue.

He added: "I am unaware of any groups being set up and having been a councillor in Wordsley for nine years, I am surprised that I have not been involved."

For more information about the 'Friends of Wordsley Park' contact Derrick Hemingsley on 01384 865199 or email info@wordsleylabour.org.uk

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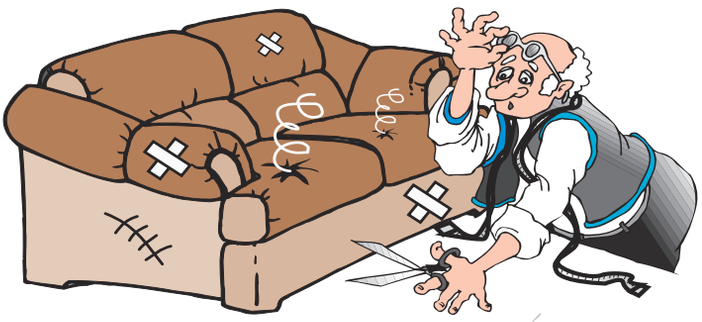

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Family and colleagues in tribute to Margaret, 72

A STOURBRIDGE councillor who carried on serving her local community throughout an eight-year battle with cancer has died.

Margaret Cowell, aged 72, who represented Wollaston and Stourbridge Town on Dudley Council, died at Himley Mill Nursing Home in School Road, Himley. Her daughter, Jackie, and sons, Adrian and Phil, were at her bedside.

Conservative Councillor Mrs Cowell, who was also a stepmother of two and grandmother of three, was diagnosed with breast cancer soon after winning her seat in 2003.

Despite undergoing radiotherapy and surgery, she continued as a councillor and won two more elections.

She discovered, just over a year ago, that the disease had spread to her brain but she battled through her treatment to victory in the May elections – when daughter Jackie, a Labour campaigner, won her first council seat, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood.

Margaret Cowell

Administrator

Jackie, aged 41, said: "She never let her illness interfere with the work she did – it helped to keep her going."

Councillor Cowell, of Park Road West, Wollaston, was born in Kingswinford and used to be an administrator for West Midlands Travel.

Her husband, Doug, died aged 93, soon after she discovered that her cancer had spread to her brain.

Dudley Council leader Les Jones paid tribute to Councillor Cowell. He said: "She was a very well respected and loyal councillor. She will be missed by us as well as the community she served."

Councillor Jones said that the start of the borough's doorstep collections of plastics and cardboard for recycling would be a legacy of Councillor Cowell as she chaired the committee that developed the plans.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said: "Margaret bore her illness with such bravery and dignity and she served the people of Wollaston and Stourbridge Town exceptionally well over the years."

Card to foil thieves

Commercial manager Neil Woodall with the new card

A BRIERLEY Hill metal recycling firm says it has been "overwhelmed" at the response to a voluntary ID scheme which it set up in response to growing concerns about metal thefts in the Black Country.

Mason Metals Ltd, in Two Woods Lane,launched the scheme in January and nearly 100 customers signed up in just over a month. Bosses said the response had been very positive with up to five customers now signing up every day.

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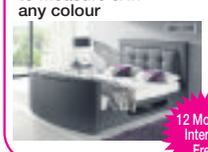

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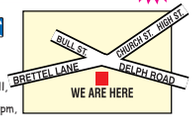

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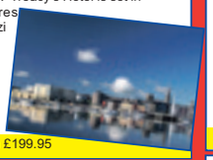

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thechronicle

Social group committee members and company managers in 1977

Stourbridge garage staff on a fishing trip in 1982

The last stop . . . staff on the day Stourbridge garage closed in 1985

End of the road . . . buses taken out of service in 1980

Bryan Bush with his scrapbooks of memories

Former bus driver stops to remember his routes

A £7 MILLION scheme that has changed Stourbridge Bus Station beyond recognition has rekindled memories of the old site for one long-time worker.

MEMORY LANE

by Lee Watton

Bryan Bush started out as a driver in 1962 and worked there and its neighbouring garage until 1985.

The 73-year-old, of Maypole Drive, Stourbridge, says while nothing now remains of either the original station or garage he still has fond memories of both and the people who worked there.

Redevelopment of the Foster Street East site will create a bus interchange with a new concourse and subway link but Mr Bush says things had been very different when he started working there.

The station had been split in two with the old railway station, which was then the main line, at the centre of the site. But the big difference was that opposite the station stood a garage where the buses were stored and maintained. The vehicles also used to leave this site to begin their daily journeys.

That is now occupied by the Mercedes Benz dealership but at one time it was one of the biggest employers in the town with around 200 staff working there.

Mr Bush later became an acting inspector and then a union chairman and finally a liaison officer.

"The garage was a bustle of activity in those days as buses continually left and entered the site while on their journeys," he says.

"We had vehicles going out to all areas such as Worcester, Ludlow and Kidderminster along with the closer destinations such as Cradley Heath and outlying parts of Stourbridge.

"I worked there until 1985 when the garage was finally closed. It was a shame as it was a great place to work and at the time a lot of people were employed there."

Mr Bush says staff were a close knit team and went on social events, including fishing trips.

The garage was demolished soon after its closure on January 26, 1985, marking the end of an era.

Staff gathered for one last photograph of their final day before they were transferred to depots in Hartshill, Dudley and Quinton as part of West Midlands Travel's rationalisation plans. But Mr Bush says many keep in touch and meet for regular reunions.

The replacement, built to bring the split station together, cost £147,000, was demolished last year.

"The recent work at the site is the second major change I can remember happening at the station," says Mr Bush, who worked on the buses for nearly 40 years. "However, I am sure there will be people who continue to think fondly of the old station and before that the garage."

Staff pull a retiring driver's bus into Stourbridge garage in 1978

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thechronicle LETTERS

No point in becoming Dudley city

I FOR one am not in favour of Dudley becoming a city.

Living in Coseley, which came under the jurisdiction the Dudley Metropolitan Borough in 1966 with the boundary changes, if anything we ought to revert back to the urban district councils.

At least they looked after the community, and its welfare, which is more than can be said for coming under the DMBC.

We had our own police station, fire station, refuse bins emptied twice a week, road and drain cleaning on a regular basis, and with the foresight of that Coseley Urban District Council we had our own swimming pool. Now what have we got?

No police station, no fire station, no swimming pool, refuse bags emptied once a week.

Rarely do we see the roads or drains cleaned, except in November when the roads are cleaned just before the Remembrance Day Parade.

Now Dudley Council wants to spend millions on revamping the market place. What the hell for?

They spent more than £1m on Stone Street Square not far away from the market place – and what use has it served? There was £1m on the Council Plus building and now I believe plans are in the pipeline for it to be on the move again.

We mustn't forget all the vast amount of money that has been spent on a leisure centre in south of the borough, just recently a sum of £474,000. And the best part is, it's still got an uneven floor. How much money does it need to get the floor even?

No! I am not in favour of Dudley becoming a city. To me there are far more important things to deal with.

MRS P A JORDAN
Peartree Lane
Coseley

Shedding fearful tears for England

FEARING that the state of my country can only get worse,

I have put my own personal feelings in to verse.

Once we had a country whose special values made us all proud,

Now today you dare not speak of any of them out loud.

Now today, it is all political correctness and all of it bad,

It's been going on for years it makes me so bitter and oh so very sad.

Once we had a country that we all held very dear,

Now today, we are not safe because we all live in fear.

A country once so great you were proud to belong,

How can our politicians get so much wrong?

Yes, as a nation we have clearly lost our way.

MICHAEL SAMPSON
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

NHS care will suffer if changes go ahead

IF MR Cameron has his way under proposed changes to the NHS, hospitals such as Russells Hall will be allowed to earn up nearly 50 percent of their income from private patients.

In reality, this means that cash strapped hospitals entering the market place, will compete with each other for private patients. The number of NHS beds will be reduced, as hospitals search for profit. Pandering to the incentive of "going private" will involve the opportunity to jump NHS waiting lists. Those hospitals unable to raise sufficient revenue would face closure.

Already, Russells Hall is in crisis situation over a reduced capacity in maternity beds. Prospective mothers have been booked to have their babies in other hospitals.

A spokesperson for Russells Hall has said the feasibility of increasing capacity is being looked into. If the study does lead to an increase in beds and Mr Cameron's plans are allowed to become law, the increased capacity may well be over-run by newly privatised sector patients.

EDWARD DAVIES
Stourbridge

It's little wonder UK has few jobs

DURING my years as a sales representative, (1965-1981) I developed a "theory".

The so-called Queen's Award to Industry for Exports was detrimental, as well as an incentive. Life since then has proved me right.

During my career, one of my customers was Courtaulds Engineering. One of their main lines was textile making machinery, which was sold all over the world, for which they earned the Queen's Award.

So-called "underdeveloped countries" purchased this machinery and started making materials, which were then sold back to the UK.

At a meeting in London an MP said "we are actively encouraging industry to leave the UK".

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

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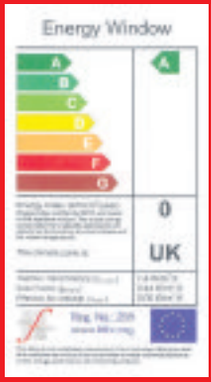

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Flower speaker

THE Cradley Heath Flower and Gardening Club's floral demonstrator on March 1 at Cradley Health Baptist Church will be Ros Freeman.

Jobs optimism despite rise in those out of work

DUDLEY'S regeneration chief believes the borough can bounce back from the latest rise in unemployment.

New figures show job queues are getting longer in Dudley, Kidderminster and across the West Midlands.

In Dudley, the Jobseeker's Allowance claimant count was up by 5.4 per cent.

The count increased by 389 to 10,371 between October and December which is above the national rate of 4.1 per cent. But Councillor Angus Adams said he believed the situation will get better.

Dudley Council is due to start work on a multi-million pound project to link Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust from Tipton Road and Castle Hill.

Councillor Adams said he hoped the investment in this areawould encourage new businesses and investment.

"It is grim at the moment but I think it will pick up soon. Hopefully with what we are doing in Castle Hill will inspire others to follow," he said.

Meanwhile in Kidderminster and Wyre Forest the claimant count was up 171 to 2,4031, or four per cent.

The district has been hit hard in recent weeks with both carpet maker Brintons and luxury boat manufacturer Sealine axing more than 200 posts.

Wyre Forest District Council leader Councillor John Campion said: "It is very tough out there at the moment but we as a council are doing all we can to support individuals and communities."

Vets launches round the clock emergency service

A ROUND-THE-CLOCK A&E service for sick pets has been launched in Halesowen, creating six jobs.

Manor Vets, which has four centres across the region, has taken on three vets and three veterinary nurses for the hospital service l at its surgery in Kent Road..

The business, founded more than 110 years ago, also has branches in Cradley Heath, Edgbaston and Northfield and the new recruits bring the total workforce to 64. Forty of the workers are in Halesowen.

Darran Jannings, senior vet, said: "This new service means the practice will be manned 24-hours-a-day so that should an animal be taken ill at 3am, the anxious owner doesn't need to wait, they can bring the pet directly to us and we can examine it and start necessary treatment.

"In addition sick pets in our hospital get uninterrupted care around the clock with regular reports back to worried owners.

"If that means operating at 3.30am, then we'll do it, exactly as you'd expect if a patient was rushed to A&E after an accident or sudden illness."

Mr Jannings said 24-hour opening was a development the practice's management team had wanted to introduce for some time.

For an advanced practice of our size and reputation a truly 24-hour service was the next logical step forward in pet care, said Mr Jannings.

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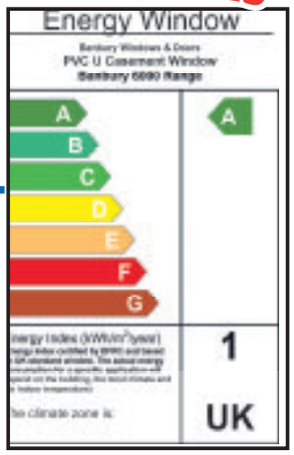

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Thieves strike again

Headteacher Lucy Griffiths on the damaged roof

A DUDLEY school which had already been landed with a £140,000 bill by metal thieves now faces having to pay another £10,000 after its roof was attacked yet again.

Raiders who climbed on to the roof of Jessons CE Primary left a trail of destruction, ripping off tiles in a desperate search for lead. But there was none left to steal – because repeated attacks over the last two years led to the school having to carry out £140,000 of repairs.

At the same time, the school decided to replace all the lead with a non-metallic sealant to deter future thieves.

"We thought we'd finally got rid of the problem," said headteacher Lucy Griffiths.

Ripped

"But now they've come back and ripped up every single roof joint and ripped off tiles. You'd have thought that, after not finding lead in the first few, they'd have left – but they just carried on. It is soul destroying."

The latest attack was discovered after a contractor working on another roof nearby spotted the destruction in School Street. It's all the more annoying because we haven't got any lead on the roof any more. We had it all replaced in the summer because of previous lead thefts," added Mrs Griffiths, who has been head of the school for 19 years.

"We didn't think about an attempt to steal lead from the roof because we haven't got any left."

Safety fears as cars race through village

MOTORBIKES and cars are thundering through a village near Stourbridge at speeds of up to 96mph, sparking safety fears, an MP has said.

Residents in Enville are fed up of motorists flouting the law by breaking the 30mph speed limit, according to South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson.

He says the stretch of the A458 which runs through the village is "incredibly dangerous".

To try to combat the problem, Enville Parish Council is planning to install a speed-indicator sign which will flash when motorists approach to fast. Police are also planning to carry out operations targeting speeding motorists.

Mr Williamson said: "I have had reports from the police that motorcyclists have been clocked doing up to 96mph. This is an accident waiting to happen and we must do all we can."

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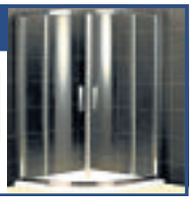

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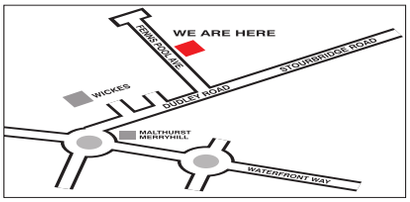

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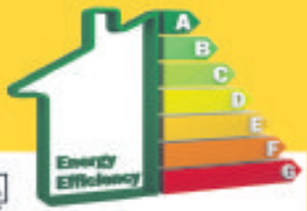

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Reunited schoolfriends planning a 50th reunion

The High Arcal School girl's hockey team in 1967 including, front row, second left, Glenis Poletti

Glenis Poletti, left, and Barbara Price take a trip down memory lane

SCHOOL friends who recently reunited after more than 30 years have organised a 50th anniversary reunion for fellow classmates to get back in touch with each other.

Glenis Poletti, from Stourbridge, and Barbara Price want to hear from people who started at High Arcal School, Sedgley, in 1962.

The get-together follows a series of reunions organised by the school to celebrate its own 50th anniversary last year.

The reunion, which is only for that year group, will be held at a venue in Sedgley on April 20 with former pupils asked to e-mail Mrs Poletti at egap1@btinternet.com

She said while some had attended the gatherings many had wanted to see more people from their own year group.

She and Mrs Price got back in touch after a mutual friend brought them into contact following one of the reunions .

Mrs Poletti said while they had been contacted by around 70 members of their year group eager to attend, there were others who they had not been able to get in touch with.

"We have had a good response and some people are travelling in from as far away as New Zealand and Canada," said Mrs Poletti, aged 61, who attended the school from 1962 to 1969. However, there have been a few people we would love to contact but simply cannot find them.

"Hopefully when they know this event is taking place they will get in touch. It would be really sad to hold this event and to not have those people there with us.

"The reunion is open to people who started at the school in 1962. We would love to hear from anyone from then who would like to attend."

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Bird-lovers invited to join flight of fancy at lecture

BIRD-LOVERS are being invited to a talk hosted by Stourbridge members of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The group is hosting an illustrated talk by Bromsgrove-based author and photographer, Gordon Forrest, who will be speaking about Upton Warren, Worcestershire's premier bird-watching nature reserve.

The event will take place on February 24 at 7.30pm at the Eco Centre, Ridgewood High School, Park Road West, Wollaston, Stourbridge.

John Homer, chairman of the Stourbridge group, said: "We hold an indoor meeting every month until April and have heard a real variety of talks this season.

"We're particularly looking forward to Gordon's talk as it's about a nature reserve that attracts visitors from this neck of the woods and beyond.

"Some of us in the group know Upton Warren very well but the talk should provide a great introduction for people who've never been there before."

Upton Warren, between Bromsgrove and Droitwich, consists of both saline and freshwater pools, which attract a range of birds from breeding avocet, common tern, little ringed plover, water rail and green sandpiper. The Trust also owns and manages two nature reserves in the Stourbridge area - Chance Wood and Penorchard.

More information is available from Mr Homer, on 01384 277800, or Avril Williams on 01384 371064 or by visiting www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk.

More beat bobbies

OVERNIGHT closure of front offices at five West Midlands Police stations will help put at least 25 officers back on the beat, the chief constable said.

Chris Sims said moves to shut Stourbridge, Dudley, Halesowen, Wednesfield and Bloxwich at night would allow officers to be released from control room duties to the streets.

Front offices of stations are underused and the force needs to develop new ways of communicating, said Mr Sims.

Bloxwich, in Walsall, is the only station of the five that will open slightly longer than the others following a public consultation.

Mr Sims said: "We've modified some decisions made in terms of opening hours to fit to the feedback we have had.

"They're not major changes but on a local level people will see them as significant. A big part of the reason for doing this is it allows us to release officers on to patrol more quickly. That will be at least 25 officers. I think it is a reasonable compromise.

Future

"We can say we're not going to go back onto this issue in the future but in the longer term we will be looking at the estate more generally.

"As people's lifestyles change, police stations are not necessarily what people think about. We need think about how we contact people rather than getting completely hooked on the opening times of a building."

Officers on control room duties will be freed for frontline duties when the changes come into effect. Their roles will be filled by front office staff. The force had planned to shut 12 stations between 6pm to 10am each day.

West Midlands Police Authority has frozen the amount of cash it collects from taxpayers after a U-turn on plans for a three per cent increase.

The rise was originally planned to help plug a £126 million funding gap caused by government cuts in its annual budget up to 2015.

Changes would have seen people living in band D properties paying an extra £2.98 a year.

Urgent plea to investors

SHAREHOLDERS in Kidderminster carpet firm Victoria are being urged not to abstain in the vote to decide the future of the company.

A general meeting on March 6 has been called to vote on replacing two existing non-executive directors with four new ones.

The board of Victoria hit back at the consortium led by former chairman Alexander Anton which is seeking to make the changes.

It is writing to all shareholders with detailed comments upon the statement issued by the consortium, saying it strongly refutes much of the content.

Firm raises £2,000

Dakro staff with joint managing directors Dave Bending, Kevin Wainwright and fundraiser Janet Jones

A HOSPICE in Stourbridge has been boosted by a £2,000 donation as a Black Country firm kicks off a year of supporting the charity.

Mary Stevens Hospice is the chosen good cause for Dakro Environmental, Cradley Heath, for 2012.

The company, which provides specialist water treatment and air hygiene services throughout the UK, hopes to generate thousands more for the hospice.

Joint managing director Dave Bending said: "As our company receives many requests for donations and sponsorship throughout the year, we decided to nominate a charity to support during 2012 and the hospice was our unanimous choice. The decision was made in recognition of the wonderful care and support they provide to the community.

"We all look forward to supporting the hospice during 2012 and beyond."

Janet Jones, head of fundraising at the hospice, said: "We are all delighted with this new level of support and look forward to many years of joint initiatives to benefit our patients with life-limiting illness and their families."

Fun trip on offer to young adult carers

YOUNG adult carers in Dudley can enjoy a fun trip or activity if they take part in an online survey about services across the borough. Organisations working with younger carers want to know what they think of the support currently available and how it can be improved.

Up to 50 young people who complete the survey will receive vouchers which can be redeemed for a trip or activity of their choice.

Carers aged between 13 and 25 can take part in the survey.

Councillor David Vickers, cabinet member for adult and community services at Dudley Borough Council, said:

"I hope the chance to enjoy a trip or activity will encourage our young adult carers to take part in this survey."

The survey is available to complete online at http://youngcarers.posterous.com/young-carers-13-25-survey.

Steam train photos day

A POPULAR photography exhibition aimed at steam train enthusiasts returns to a Midlands venue in April.

Kidderminster Railway Museum stages the photograph fair at its headquarters, off Comberton Hill, on Easter Monday, April 9, from 10am to 4.30pm.

Collectors bring their own selection of photographs and the museum will also display a selection from its own archive.

Morrisons planning new store

MORRISONS is close submitting plans for its new store in Kingswinford.

The supermarket said it was putting the finishing touches to its scheme to demolish its store in Stallings Lane, and replace it with 40,000sq ft one.

Bosses said the proposed scheme would be amended slightly following a consultation attended by hundreds of residents last month.

They refused to comment on which parts of the plan would be changed until a full analysis of the responses had been carried out.

This is now taking place and bosses said the work was unlikely to delay submission of the planning application which is due to take place within the next month.

Under the plans, the new supermarket would be built on disused industrial land next to the existing store and create around 70 jobs.

A petrol station would be built and the car park would be expanded from 250 to 430 spaces. Nearly 300 part and full-time staff employed at the supermarket would be transferred to the new site.

Football match

POLICE have organised a football match against teenagers to improve relationships with each other. The game between Stourbridge and Brierley Hill and Dudley Youth Club will be at Brierley Hill's Dell Stadium on February 26.

That's neat that tiger feat as big cats craned into zoo

HISTORY was made at Dudley Zoo with the arrival of two female tigers in an operation that took almost a year of planning.

It is the first time more than one big cat has been kept in an enclosure at the zoo in its 75-year history.

The animals were transported into the big cat enclosure by crane in a manoeuvre that involved more than a dozen senior keeping staff.

Fifteen-month-old Amur tiger Tschuna and fourteen-month-old Daseep, a Sumatran, were transferred from Wuppertal Zoo, in Germany.

Staff in Dudley spent the last 11 months planning how to lower the cats into the enclosure in a series of meetings with workers from the German zoo.

The operation took just over two hours to complete by which time the tigers were settling into their new home in one of the site's historic Tecton buildings.

Distressing

They were lifted into the enclosure using a large crane and two crates. Staff said it was a complex process as the crane had to be moved very slowly to avoid distressing the animals.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "We are just over the moon with the new girls, they are beautiful.

Mr Suddock said: "It is wonderful to see them in there, and hopefully, within the next year we will have a Sumatran male to carry on our breeding programme.

"We are just delighted to have such an important and rare species back at the zoo."

The zoo hopes to get a male tiger later this year. Mr Suddock added: "It is the first time in 75 years since the zoo opened to the public that we have moved more than one big cat at the same time into this enclosure. It was an incredibly detailed move and involved careful manoeuvring of the tiger crates into the enclosure using a full size crane."

Daseep is moved out of the transporter awaiting the crane slips to be fixed

Attractions

Tschuna and Daseep are now the only tigers at the zoo and are expected to become one of the main attractions for visitors.

The tigers will remain quarantined within their Tecton enclosure f or six months.

They will spend the rest of the week away from the public but keepers hope to introduce them to visitors early next week.

The tigers enjoyed a good night's sleep and were being regularly visited by staff today as they settled in to their new home. Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "The keepers couldn't believe how calm the girls were after their travels yesterday.

"They moved into their new enclosure without any fuss, and settled in together immediately.

"They were too busy playing to bother with food, but they ate and then settled down for the night.

"They will be having lots of behind-the-scenes visitors today as keepers call in to see them to sort out diet sheets and discuss quarantine regulations.

"They are gorgeous girls and we know visitors will fall in love with them when they go on show to the general public this week."

Daseep settles down in the enclosure

Tschuna takes a tentative step into her home

Plans to turn old factory into flats

PLANS to transform a former dental factory in Stourbridge into flats and a day nursery have been submitted.

Developers say it was unlikely commercial operators could be found for the old Pugh Ceramics (dental) Ltd premises in Wollaston.

Instead proposals have been lodged to convert the 1940s built two-storey property in King Street.

Six new flats would be built with a day nursery in the side extension under plans submitted by Nigel Lauder.

Mr Lauder has lodged a planning application for a change of use to residential premises with Dudley Council.

Up to 50 people once worked at the site according to details in a design and access statement to the authority's planning department.

The report said: "A change of use to residential would seem to be the most appropriate use class given the residential context of the site.

"There is some history of effect on neighbours' amenity caused by the previous commercial use of the site.

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Winter warmth will provide expert advice and practical hands on support to help vulnerable people keep warm. Things like help with paying fuel bills, providing emergency heaters, even cold weather food parcels for people who can't get out in cold weather.

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Help on cards for hospice

Perton Jubilee Townswomen's Guild

IN January our New Year programme began with an evening of wine and nibbles, followed by a game of play your cards right.

This was won by Norma and Gwen. We donated £25 to Acorn Hospice, raised by our members making donations instead of giving each other Christmas cards.

At our February meeting we were entertained by Will Morgan, a local folk singer. Following this with refreshments.

The AGM will be held in March followed by a cheese and wine evening. We meet at Perton civic centre on Perton estate next to Sainsbury's on the first Wednesday evening of each month from 7.30-9.30pm.

Cameo Ladies

CHAIRMAN Jane Emery welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2012.

This began with the AGM followed by presentation of a cheque for £500 to Georgina and Rachael from the Wolverhampton Branch of the Samaritans, the chosen charity for 2011.

A talk was then given on the work of a Samaritan. This was followed with music by members Pamela, Janice and Chris.

Our next meeting will be History of the Royal Hospital" with Roy Stallard on March 5 at 7.45pm at The Mercure Goldthorn Hotel, Wolverhampton.

Doug Smith, President of Cannock Lions with Eileen Cryer, President, SI Cannock & District

Lions club checks in with aid for project

Cannock Soroptimists

CANNOCK Soroptimists were thrilled to accept a cheque for £50 from Cannock Lions as a contribution to help fund their project on trafficking, Purple Teardrop.

President Eileen Cryer and the Club's Programme Action group leading this project were particularly pleased as another taxi firm had just agreed to become involved and the club needed to provide stickers and leaflets with the information about trafficking for a further 30 taxis in the area.

Taxis are especially important in the project as it may happen that as a direct result of them carrying the Purple Teardrop information, a woman will be alerted to the dangers of trafficking and she can then get help. Equally it may happen that a customer, perhaps troubled by something they have seen, spots the trafficking information together with the Crime Stoppers Number 0800 555 111 and is able to report it.

Support is a feather in RSPB cap

Yoxall WI

DID you know that the RSPB was originally called the plume and feather club?

It was set up to discourage the use of feathers in hats that was resulting in the total extinction of some bird species.

The society was awarded a Royal Charter in 1904 and in 1911, after a campaign to save the egret, the plumage trade was abolished.

John Clews, an RSPB volunteer gave a very informative talk at our February meeting. He highlighted the work of the RSPB which is one of the largest wildlife organisations with 1,100,000 members.

In 1961 the society established its headquarters in Bedfordshire with the purchase of The Lodge for £25,000.

Volunteers

Most of the work done for the RSPB is carried out by volunteers who manage the reserves and offices, organise fund-raising and conservation programmes and are involved in education.

A constant concern for the society is the birds that are in decline. We were urged to provide food for the birds during the whole year.

We were given early notice of our May Market (Saturday May 19) so keep this date free in your diaries.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 14. This will be our AGM followed by George Hook talking to us on The World of Mother of Pearl.

Visitors are welcome.

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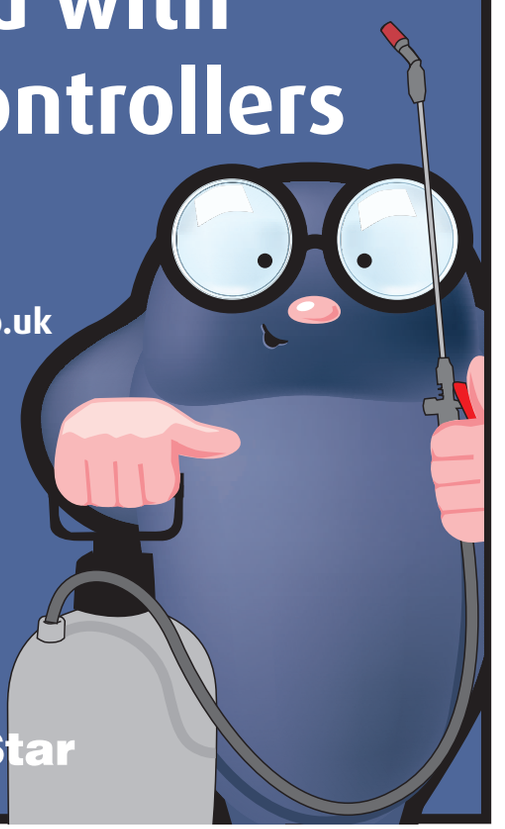

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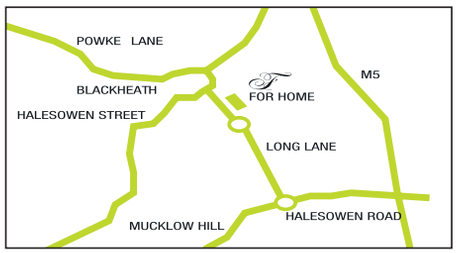

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LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384171**

SAFFY single female, loves to keep fit and look good, WLTM tall male with GSOH for easygoing relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385355**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385353**

ATTRACTIVE female, tom boy looks, loves cosy night in with a good bottle of wine and great company, looking for someone to love me. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385345**

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385309**

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303133**

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for mature male 50-70yrs for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376569**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363277**

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTM understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375141**

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373013**

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368119**

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non jealous, respectful male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383065**

RETIRED widow, medium build, loving, caring, genuine, likes holidays, seeks male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311151**

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311**

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382089**

LUCINDA caring 31yr old single mum, sick of school runs and runny noses, looking for some adult fun and good times with available easygoing male up to 45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383067**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378483**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376565**

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368889**

RACHAEL 49yrs young slim, caring, sincere and fun loving, WLTM similar male with GSOH for mutual companionship, perhaps more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343**

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375139**

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377511**

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378481**

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091**

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507**

JEANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly male for tactile LTR, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383917**

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of tlc and good times. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375711**

FAYE young 43yr fun, trendy, fit, loves fast cars, wine, sports, shopping, seeking younger male to make me feel as young as the man I am feeling! **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383069**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428**

CHANTAL lonely 40yr old female looking for male 40-45 for fun. Interested? Call me. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383921**

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTM someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383911**

SINGLE mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382595**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528**

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657**

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361076**

ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388550**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375825**

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327579**

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591**

LOUISA looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380469**

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929**

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378209**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 329319**

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374845**

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387204**

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369295**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368429**

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362033**

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 367021**

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 366755**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384852**

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 304135**

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357985**

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357751**

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 180587**

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 356761**

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 351813**

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339275**

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327465**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380918**

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373**

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 338315**

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 334627**

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 326119**

FEMININE caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 321931**

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382099**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 313115**

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 341491**

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 316619**

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327573**

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380851**

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 231152**

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376801**

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378207**

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376115**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

MALE 46, medium build, short hair, N/S, lonely, no ties, hurt in past, varied interests, sports, DIY, seeks female, 21-65. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385783**

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369663**

MALE 45, 5ft 7ins, medium build, short hair, N/S, no ties, honest, likes sports, cinema, countryside, DIY, seeks female, 20-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 332453**

JEFF 60's, WLTM petite female, 40's for nights out, walks, camping, holidays, weekends away etc. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385695**

STEVE 55, seeks older lady, 60-70 for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389674**

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389662**

DANIEL 49, tall, attractive, GSOH, seeks lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382559**

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921**

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371823**

47YR old musician, thoughtful, tall, seeks quiet, easygoing lady, 40-47 for mellow relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384401**

ALAN young 62, N/S, slim, solvent, successful, OHAC, WLTM sensitive, caring female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380651**

63YR old male, widower, retired, looking for female of any age/status for fun relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389132**

DARK haired male, slim, blue eyes, fit, likes pubs, clubs, weekends away, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385087**

IAN 43, single dad, likes rugby, motorsports, reading, history, cooking, walks, cinema, music, seeks kind, honest, sincere lady, 25-48. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371955**

CHARMING fit 41yr old professional male, seeks lively, caring companion for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359945**

HANDSOME male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 322561**

SHROPSHIRE country businessman, 43 OHAC, seeks Shropshire lady 25-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370279**

CHRIS attractive male, 42, 5ft 10ins, cuddly, dark hair, hazel eyes, likes days out, nights in, seeks attractive female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385243**

BOB 61, seeks attractive younger lady for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385121**

LONELY caring gent, 64, seeks lady for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385025**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368871**

PAUL young energetic 60yr old, seeks slim, attractive lady, 55-60 for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376485**

TOM 61, medium build, reasonable looks, with ties, seeks attractive, younger lady, 25-48 for exciting daytime fun. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384771**

JOHN 57, lonely, seeking female to share life with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377831**

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158**

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372407**

JEFF 63, tall, fresh looking, fit, N/S, nice personality, seeks female. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384583**

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649**

TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373351**

GENUINE male, 46, honest, caring, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 231090**

GENUINE professional male, 50, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382849**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382997**

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363253**

MALE 36, likes pubs, clubs, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Carol please leave your mobile number again. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 263938**

60'S MAmale, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307**

THOUGHTFUL adventurous, attractive guy, 37, OHAC, likes nights in/out, seeks attractive girl with similar interests. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360663**

ATTRACTIVE solvent, honest gent, 57, 5ft 5ins, slim, easygoing, GSOH, OHAC, retired, seeks attractive female for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384133**

BARRY slim 6ft, 66, clean, good looking, active, seeks female. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361471**

ATTRACTIVE black male, WLTM female for fun, adventure and good times. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383841**

DAVID 54, 5ft 9ins, seeks female, 22-58 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374599**

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311892**

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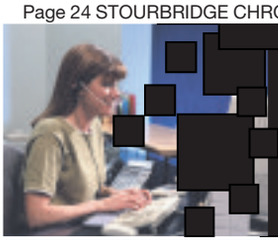

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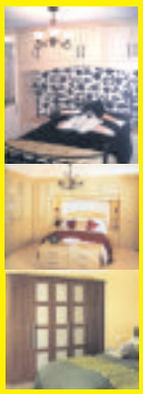

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Street lights face being dimmed to save money

STREET lights may be dimmed or switched off in Worcestershire as the county council tries to save money and cut carbon emissions.

The council aims to save £520,000 by 2014-15 through its light-cutting measures.

The council is responsible for 52,000 street lights and 8,000 illuminated road signs, costing around £2 million in electricity and accounting for 21 per cent of its carbon dioxide emissions.

The council has been discussing alternatives with parish and town councils.

Alternatives include dimming, conversion to more energy-efficient lighting such as LED and white light or "part night switch-off." This would mean that some street lights that were previously on all night, being lit between dusk and midnight. They would be switched off until 5.30am.

The council has already dimmed 200 high-wattage lighting points, and 6,000 lighting columns have been converted to more energy-efficient lighting.

Councillor John Smith, cabinet member for roads, said: "The county council is no different from anyone else.

"We are also facing the cost of rising energy bills and we're trying to reduce our emissions. That's why it's necessary to reduce our street lighting energy consumption."

Police grant aids women

A GRANT from the Police Authority's Communities Initiatives fund will help the Humaara project in Lye.

The cash will be spent on an awareness raising event to bring the Asian women of the community together and educate and inform them about the following issues relating to community safety.

The Humaara group is an Asian women's group that wants to tackle the problem of low confidence amongst Asian women.

Often they are very fearful of venturing out alone because of their fear of crime.

The women in the group have been affected by negative stories and the aim of the event is to raise their awareness about how they can help reduce the risk of becoming victims of crimes such as jewellery theft and how to report race hate crime.

Councillor Judy Foster, Vice Chair of West Midlands Police Authority said:

"The Communities Initiatives Fund is aimed at assisting projects which can demonstrate the potential to contribute to reducing crime and disorder.

"I am very pleased that the Police Authority is able to give support to this project, which will help this group of Asian women to find out what they can do to feel more safe and confident, whether at home or out and about."

Aman Kainat and Nimra Khayal celebrate as Councillor Judy Foster presents the cheque to Maimoona Ramzan, boss of Humaara

Cooking know-how

Front, kitchen team teader Russ Warner with deputy manager Kieran Butterworth and (right) trainee manager Billy Martin at The Harvester, in Halesowen

A MASTERCHEF-style panel of youngsters is being invited to pass judgement on a Haelesowen pub's new menu as part of a drive to interest young people in good food.

The Foxhunt, a Harvester pub in Hagley Road West, is appealing for children who know their carrots from their cucumbers to design their own dish and become a head chef of the future.

The pub is offering six youngsters under the age of 10 the chance to form a panel of judges and decide what appears on the new children's menu.

To be in with a chance of becoming a Young Guest Head Chef, Foxhunt bosses are inviting children to design their own dish from a list of ingredients, ranging from baked beans to broccoli, and explain why it is their perfect meal.

The Foxhunt's manager, Matthew Turner, said: "We want to make sure that we reflect exactly what children want, so what better way to do this than by getting the kids involved themselves.

"We hope the appeal will promote the importance of healthy eating amongst children, and increase awareness about the benefits of getting your five-a-day."

Packs will be available for young customers to enter the competition and the best entries will be chosen.

To enter visit www.harvester.co.uk/competition or call 0121 585 5886.

Musicians sought for new weekend festival

BANDS and solo musicians from across the Black Country can take part in a new music festival in West Bromwich this spring.

The Now We Are Weekender, which celebrates indie-pop and rock, is at The Public arts centre, New Street, West Bromwich on April 7 and 8.

The event will feature more than 30 live bands and DJs.

There will be performances from the likes of Art Brut, Misty's Big Adventure and The Lovely Eggs.

People can also browse at stalls, and family friendly workshops will also be held.

Festival organiser, Funny Looking Cat, is calling for bands to fill the remaining six places on the line-up.

Musicians interested should send a link of their material, but not in MP3 format, together with the name, town and a brief description, to bands@funnylookingcat.co.uk

The deadline for submissions is February 29.

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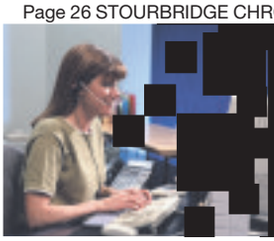

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It's no wonder that Balti Bazaar has won many awards for its culinary excellence and exemplary customer service through the years-most recently it was Spice Times Regional Winner 2011 and Customer Excellence Award 2010.

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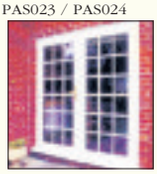

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We have the services of a Dental Therapist Hygienist.

We are very sympathetic to anxious and nervous patients and also offer IV Sedation on a private basis.

We offer a full range of dental care products on which we would be pleased to give you advice.

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Choice

POINTLESS CELEBRITIES

BBC1, 6.15pm

For a show that prides itself on celebrating obscurity, tea-time quiz Pointless has been gaining rather a lot of attention lately. Not only did it make the move from BBC Two to BBC One last year, but its best-rated episode attracted more than five million viewers and, most prestigiously of all, presenter Alexander Armstrong's 'pointless friend' and co-host Richard Osman was voted the top Weird Crush of 2011 by readers of Heat magazine. Now the programme is about to make even more of a splash as it gets a special, celebrity Saturday night edition. Will the famous faces have that all-important pointless knowledge?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.35** Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Wales (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.15 Pointless Celebrities. New series. Christopher Biggins and Lesley Joseph join Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman for the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.
7.10 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. More celebrity hoofing for charity, featuring former Towie stars Amy Childs and Harry Derbidge, actor and comedian Miles Jupp and ski-jump legend Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards.
8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
9.20 Casualty. An official complaint is made against Sam.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Queens Park Rangers v Fulham; National Lottery Update.
11.45 The Football League Show.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: Howl's Moving Castle. (2004) Animated fantasy, with the voices of Jean Simmons and Christian Bale. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Animal 24:7. (R) **3.30** Birds Britannia. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Coast. (R) **5.50** Flog It! (R)

6.50 Dad's Army. The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. (R)
7.20 The Story of Light Entertainment. Stephen Fry narrates a history of the genre, beginning by focusing on double acts from Laurel and Hardy to Ant and Dec. (R)
8.20 The Story of Musicals. New series. Britain's influence on musical theatre.
9.20 I'm in a Boy Band. New series. The first of three documentaries exploring the experience of being in a boy band, with contributions by members of the Four Tops, the Jackson 5 and One Direction.
10.20 TOTP2: Boy Bands. Performances by JLS, the Monkees, Westlife, Village People and Blazin' Squad.
11.20 Pan Am. The staff and crew of the Clipper Majestic look forward to 1964. Last in the series.

12.00 Film: Intermission. (2003) Comedy, starring Colin Farrell , Cillian Murphy. and Kelly Macdonald. **1.45** Film: The Sorcerers. (1967) British horror, starring Boris Karloff. **3.05** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** This Morning: Saturday. **12.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** Film: Casino Royale. (1967) Spoof James Bond adventure, starring David Niven. **3.50** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. **5.35** Regional News ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.05 All Star Family Fortunes. EastEnders' June Brown (Dot Branning) and Blue singer Simon Webbe team up with their relatives in a bid to win £30,000 for their chosen charities. Vernon Kay hosts.
7.05 New You've Been Framed!
7.35 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.
8.05 Take Me Out. A semi-professional footballer, a busker, a cheerleader and an artist take part.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another trio of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.
10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 FILM: The Bodyguard. (1992) Romantic thriller, with Kevin Costner and the late Whitney Houston.

12.50 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of this summer's Games. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Everyone's Talking About – Top 10. **9.25** T4: Bourjois Boutique. **9.55** T4: Playing It Straight. **10.55** T4: New Girl. (R) **11.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** T4: Charlie's Angels. **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Channel 4 News.
6.15 4thought.tv. A debate on racism.
6.20 FILM: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian. (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Amy Adams, Owen Wilson and Steve Coogan.
8.20 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. Travellers who have found themselves in trouble with the law, including a family facing eviction from an illegal site and a man due in court on the day of his fiancee's hen party. (R)
9.20 The Bank Job. Game show, hosted by George Lamb.
10.20 FILM: Shooter. (2007) Action thriller, starring Mark Wahlberg and Danny Glover.

12.45 Film: Cop Land. (1997) Police thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. **2.25** The Tannery. (R) **2.30** Film: Little Red Flowers. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Bowen Dong. **4.00** 90210. (R) **4.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** World's Toughest Trucker. (R) **11.00** Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol. (R) **12.00** Braveheart: The True Story. (R) **1.00** Film: The Duel at Silver Creek. (1952) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **2.30** Film: Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **4.25** Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin.

7.15 5 News Weekend.
7.20 NCIS. One of Tony's old murder investigations is reopened, prompting him to switch roles with Gibbs and lead the team in an inquiry that links the case to an embezzlement scheme. (R)
8.15 NCIS. The team heads into the desert to locate an artist who might be able to help solve the murder of a fellow agent, and DiNozzo learns he is in line for an inheritance. (R)
9.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Langston and Nick investigate the murder of a fast-food restaurant manager, while Catherine and Greg look into the death of a woman found to have ingested two tubes of toothpaste. (R)
10.10 CSI: NY. The girlfriend of a troubled high-school sports star is found dead.
11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.55** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
4.50 The Brit Awards 2012 **6.50** Film: The Mummy. (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Arnold Vosloo and Oded Fehr. Including FYI Daily. **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Film: Payback (1999)

ITV3
4.50 The John Thaw Story **5.55** Goodnight Mister Tom **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.00** Those Who Kill

ITV4
2.30 Film: Nevada Smith (1966) **5.10** Film: From Russia with Love. (1963) Spy thriller, starring Sean Connery, Robert Shaw, Daniela Bianchi and Lotte Lenya. Including FYI Daily. **7.30** The Sweeney **8.30** Minder **9.35** Film: Van Wilder: Party Liaison. (2002) Comedy, starring Ryan Reynolds, Tara Reid, Tim Matheson and Kal Penn. Including FYI Daily. **11.30** Film: GoodFellas (1990)

BBC THREE
7.00 Doctor Who **8.40** Top Gear **9.40** Live at the Apollo **10.10** Film: Disturbia (2007) **11.50** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Decisive Weapons **8.00** Sicily Unpacked **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Horizon: Can We Make a Star on Earth? **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1977

E4
1.55 Hollyoaks **4.30** Perfect Couples **5.20** Scrubs **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.05** Happy Endings **7.35** How I Met Your Mother **8.05** Rules of Engagement **8.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: I, Robot. (2004) Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan and Alan Tudyk. **11.15** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **4.50** Bogus (1996) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **10.55** End of Days (1999)

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Choice

HOMELAND

Channel 4, 9pm

In this second offering, post-traumatic stress sufferer Brody is still having a hard time at home with his family. He's plagued by violent nightmares and hallucinations, and resists media pressure to play the role of the returning war hero. Meanwhile, Saul, who is still not convinced that Brody is working for al-Qaeda, manages to get Carrie's four weeks' surveillance on the record so that she no longer has to hide what she's doing. Observing the footage of life in Brody's home closely, she tries to understand what's going on in his mind, and concludes he's still struggling with the fact that he's become a terrorist. Claire Danes and Damian Lewis head the cast.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.05** EastEnders. **3.00** Match of the Day Live: The League Cup Final. Liverpool v Cardiff City (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker finds out about Cornwall's famous miners, while elsewhere in the county Ellie Harrison explores a marine habitat created from an old naval frigate.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team heads to St Andrews University, where items of interest include a bowl believed to have belonged to Bonnie Prince Charlie, and Chinese vases from the Forbidden City.
9.00 Upstairs Downstairs. Lady Agnes catches the eye of an American millionaire.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Room 101 – Extra Storage. With Nick Hewer, Carol Vorderman and Rhod Gilbert.
11.05 The League Cup Show. Liverpool v Cardiff City.
11.50 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. The team is challenged to create an event for a new mobile phone.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** Accused. (R) **4.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.35** Film: The Red Beret. (1953) Second World War adventure, starring Alan Ladd. **1.00** Film: Cowboy. (1958) Western, starring Jack Lemmon. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Coast. (R)

6.00 I'm in a Boy Band. The first of three documentaries exploring the experience of being in a boy band, with contributions by members of the Four Tops, the Jackson 5 and One Direction. (R)
7.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Rhod Gilbert and Greg Davies negotiate crumbling mountain roads as they travel through Nepal, a country with one of the world's highest rates of road traffic accidents. (R)
8.00 Top Gear
9.00 Swimming with Crocodiles. Part two of two. Ben Fogle meets the saltwater crocodiles of Australia.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur.
11.15 Three Men Go to Ireland. Part one of two. Dara O Briain, Griff Rhys Jones and Rory McGrath sail from Dublin to Limerick. (R)

12.00 Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights. **12.45** Film: Point Blank. (1967) Crime thriller, starring Lee Marvin. **2.15** BBC News. **4.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.45** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **3.45** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.50** Regional News ; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.
6.20 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)
6.50 Dancing on Ice. The remaining seven celebrities take part in a rock-themed show, battling to impress the judges and win viewers' votes. Presented by Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley. The results can be seen at 9.30pm.
8.30 Wild at Heart. A mystery woman arrives, claiming to be Ed's wife, while a shocking link is made between some seemingly unrelated animal deaths. Jill Halfpenny (EastEnders) joins the cast.
9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The lowest-scoring couples compete.
10.00 That Sunday Night Show
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Vinnie Jones (R)
11.50 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the week 16 fixtures.

12.40 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. **2.45** River Monsters. (R) **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Danielle Brown – Part Two. (R) **7.05** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.30** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **7.55** T4: Bourjois Boutique. (R) **8.25** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **9.20** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** Film: Robots. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. **4.20** Deal or No Deal. **5.20** Time Team.

6.25 Channel 4 News.
6.55 4thought.tv. Britain's racial tolerance is questioned.
7.00 The Political Slot. With Conservative MP Mark Prisk.
7.05 Home of the Future. The Pereras get to grips with brainwave-controlled video games.
8.00 The Hotel. The staff tackle Christmas, the biggest event of the year, but manager Mark faces a catalogue of problems, from dodgy decorations to vegetarian dinner mix-ups. Last in the series.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie keeps Brody's home under surveillance.
10.00 FILM: Law Abiding Citizen. (2009) Premiere. Thriller, starring Gerard Butler.

12.05 Film: Terminal Velocity. (1994) Action thriller, starring Charlie Sheen. **1.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** New Girl. (R) **3.00** 90210. (R) **3.45** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.25** Time Team. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Little Lodgers. **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Milkshake! Show Songs. **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Film: The Cassandra Crossing. (1976) Disaster movie, with Burt Lancaster. **2.50** Film: My Girl. (1991) Drama, starring Anna Chlumsky and Macaulay Culkin. **4.50** Film: Pocahontas II: Journey to a New World. (1998) Disney animated sequel, featuring the voice of Irene Bedard.

6.10 FILM: The House Bunny. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, starring Anna Faris.
8.00 Cowboy Builders. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 FILM: The Outlaw Josey Wales. (1976)
11.50 FILM: Maximum Risk. (1996) Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

1.40 SuperCasino. **4.00** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **4.45** Rough Guide to Bang for Your Buck. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
1.50 Film: Wild Wild West (1999) **4.00** The Only Way Is Essex **5.30** The Cube **6.30** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: I Am Legend. (2007) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith, Alice Braga and Charlie Tahan.

ITV3
4.50 Hidden Treasure **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis. A body is found on an Oxford tour bus. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
2.35 Film: The Story of Dr Wassell (1944) **5.20** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Charlton Heston. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Sudden Death. (1995) Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Powers Boothe, Raymond J Barry and Whittni Wright. Including FYI Daily. **11.15** Film: Dirty Harry. (1971) Don Siegel's thriller, starring Clint Eastwood, Harry Guardino and Andy Robinson.

BBC THREE
7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief **8.00** Young Farmer of the Year **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Pramface **10.30** Family Guy **11.15** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 Natural World: The Bloodhound and the Beardie **8.00** One Man and His Dog **9.00** Film: My Dog Tulip (2009) **10.20** Film: The Baader Meinhof Complex (2008)

E4
4.35 Samantha Who? **5.00** Being Erica **6.00** 90210 **6.55** Film: She's the Man (2006) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
3.20 Little Manhattan (2005) **5.05** The Golden Compass (2007) **7.20** The Man (2005) Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Eugene Levy. **9.00** Iron Man (2008) **11.15** Bunny and the Bull (2009)

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Monday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** A Picture of Health. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Doorstep Crime 999. **11.30** Cowboy Trap; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** The Indian Doctor. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** The Cost of Raising Britain – Panorama. **9.00** Empire. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** A Question of Sport. **11.05** Late Kick Off. **11.35** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **12.20** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.45** Weatherview. **1.50** Sign Zone: Great British Food Revival. (R) **2.50** Royal Wedding. (R) **4.10** Rip Off Britain. (R) **4.40** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.30** BBC World News. **12.00** Daily Politics. **1.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.45** On the Road with the Chief Beefeater. **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** My Life in Books. **7.00** David Hockney: The Art of Seeing. **8.00** University Challenge. **8.30** The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff. **9.00** The Tube. **10.00** Watson & Oliver. **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Pan Am. (R) **12.00** BBC News. **3.15** The Super League Show. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** The Dales. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Whitechapel. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The Agenda. **11.05** That Sunday Night Show. (R) **11.40** River Monsters. (R) **12.05** The Unforgettable Kenny Everett. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** Champions League Weekly. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **4.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Undercover Boss. (R) **9.55** Three in a Bed. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R) **12.10** The Fabulous Baker Brothers. (R) **12.40** Film: Terms of Endearment. (1983) Drama, starring Shirley MacLaine. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** SuperScrimpers. **9.00** Coppers. **10.00** Proud and Prejudiced. **11.05** Homeland. (R) **12.10** Random Acts. **12.15** Shameless. (R) **1.15** Comedy Lab: Rick and Peter. (R) **1.40** Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic. (R) **2.35** Undressing My Mother. (R) **2.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **3.25** 90210. (R) **4.10** This Is Me. (R) **4.15** Home of the Future. (R) **5.10** Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** The Removal Men: Pickfords. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **3.10** Film: Killer Flood: The Day the Dam Broke. (2003) Thriller, starring Joe Lando. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. Rhys tells Karl why he is desperate to become a surgeon. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. Henri Brown returns to Summer Bay High. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** World's Toughest Trucker; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Police Interceptors; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Royal Marines: Mission Afghanistan. **10.00** Film: Starship Troopers 3: Marauder. (2008) Sci-fi sequel, starring Casper Van Dien, Jolene Blalock and Stephen Hogan. **12.10** Soho Blues. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.55** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** HouseBusters. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** A Picture of Health. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Doorstep Crime 999. **11.30** Cowboy Trap; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** The Indian Doctor. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Holby City. **9.00** Prisoners' Wives. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; National Lottery Update. **10.35** The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2012. **11.20** Who Do You Think You Are? US. **11.50** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** Sign Zone: Inside Men. (R) **2.20** An Island Parish. (R) **2.50** Rip Off Britain. (R) **3.20** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.30** BBC World News. **12.00** Daily Politics. **1.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** My Life in Books. **7.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. The chef explores the region of Alsace. (R) **8.00** Alex Polizzi: The Fixer. Alex is called to a faltering fancy-dress business in Essex. **9.00** Horizon: The Truth About Exercise. **10.00** Have I Got Old News for You. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Rubicon. **12.05** Rubicon. **12.50** BBC News. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** River Monsters. (R) **8.00** The Exit List. **9.00** The Biggest Loser. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Benidorm. (R) **11.35** The Cube. (R) **12.30** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Crossing Jordan. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Undercover Boss. (R) **9.55** Three in a Bed. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. **12.20** Film: Battle Cry. (1955) **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Supersize vs Superskinny. **9.00** Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. **10.00** Shameless. **11.05** Random Acts. **11.10** Desperate Housewives. **12.10** Poker. **1.10** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. **1.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.05** Best of British. (R) **3.00** Late Night Poker. (R) **3.55** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Rally Driving. (R) **4.00** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Sheepdog. (R) **4.10** That Paralympic Show. (R) **4.35** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. **5.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **5.55** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Mandip Sehmi – Part Two. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** The Removal Men: Pickfords. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: NY. (R) **3.15** Film: The Staircase Murders. (2007) Fact-based thriller, with Treat Williams and Kevin Pollak. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Police Interceptors; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Apollo 13: The True Story. The ill-fated 1970 mission and the movie version compared; 5 News at 9. **9.00** Body of Proof. **10.00** CSI: NY. (R) **10.55** CSI: Miami. (R) **11.55** CSI: NY. (R) **12.55** Inside Hollywood. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.55** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** HouseBusters. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** A Picture of Health. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Doorstep Crime 999. **11.30** Cowboy Trap; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** The Indian Doctor. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **6.55** Party Political Broadcast. (R) **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** The Food Inspectors; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** Waterloo Road. **9.00** MasterChef. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. **10.45** Kevin Bridges What's the Story? **11.15** Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. **11.55** Film: Racing for Time. (2008) **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) **1.55** Upstairs Downstairs. (R) **2.55** An Island Parish. (R) **3.25** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.30** Daily Politics. **1.00** See Hear. **1.30** Coast. (R) **1.40** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.10** Weakest Link. **2.55** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.40** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Perfection. (R) **5.10** Antiques Road Trip. **5.55** Party Political Broadcast. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** My Life in Books. **7.00** Escape to the Country. **7.30** Watson & Oliver. (R) **8.00** The Fisherman's Apprentice with Monty Halls. **9.00** Two Jews on a Cruise: A Wonderland Film. **10.00** Roger & Val Have Just Got In. **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** Stranded! The Andes Plane Crash Survivors: Storyville. (R) **1.10** BBC News. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Live International Football. **10.10** ITV News; Weather. **10.40** Regional News; Weather. **10.45** International Football. **11.50** Kidnap and Ransom. (R) **12.40** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.45** Film: Jaws 3. (1983) **4.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **9.55** Three in a Bed. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: David Smith – Part Two. (R) **12.10** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R) **12.30** Film: Reach for the Sky. (1956) **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Daddy Daycare. **9.00** One Born Every Minute. **10.00** 10 O'Clock Live. **10.55** The Mad Bad Ad Show. (R) **11.45** Random Acts. **11.50** Music on 4: The Album Chart Show: Spotlight. **12.10** Music on 4: Black Cab Sessions. **12.40** Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) **12.55** Music on 4: 4Play: Birdy. (R) **1.05** Music on 4: Professor Green Unseen: After Hours. (R) **1.35** Music on 4: Curated by Lyle and Scott. (R) **1.45** Music on 4: Live from Abbey Road. (R) **2.30** Film: Sex Lives of the Potato Men. (2004) **3.55** 90210. (R) **4.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** The Removal Men: Pickfords. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **3.15** Film: Mystery Woman. (2003) **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Cowboy Builders; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** Big Body Squad; 5 News at 9. **9.00** NCIS. **10.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. **10.55** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **11.55** Poker: The Big Game. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.55** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** HouseBusters. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** A Picture of Health. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Doorstep Crime 999. **11.30** Cowboy Trap; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** The Indian Doctor. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show. **7.30** EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** The Great British Countryside. **9.00** MasterChef. **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Question Time. **11.35** This Week. **12.20** Weatherview. **12.25** Sign Zone: The Cost of Raising Britain – Panorama. (R) **12.55** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.40** Accused. (R) **2.40** Countryfile. (R) **3.40** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.30** BBC World News. **12.00** Daily Politics. **1.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** My Life in Books. **7.00** Top Gear. (R) **8.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. **9.00** Japan – Children of the Tsunami. **10.00** Mock the Week – Again. (R) **10.30** Newsnight; Weather. **11.20** On Hannibal's Trail. (R) **11.50** On Hannibal's Trail. (R) **12.20** The Tube. (R) **1.20** BBC News. **3.40** Close. **4.00** BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Public v Private Sector – Who Wins?: Tonight. **8.00** Emmerdale. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Kidnap and Ransom. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** My Dad Is a Woman. **11.35** The Jonathan Ross Show. (R) **12.35** Take Me Out. (R) **1.35** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Public v Private Sector – Who Wins?: Tonight. (R) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **4.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **9.55** Three in a Bed. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. **12.20** The Fabulous Baker Brothers. (R) **12.50** Film: Hellfighters. (1968) Adventure, starring John Wayne. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. **8.00** Location, Location, Location. **9.00** Make Bradford British. **10.00** Our Man in Ibiza. **11.05** Coppers. (R) **12.10** Random Acts. (R) **12.15** Proud and Prejudiced. (R) **1.15** Soft. (R) **1.30** The World's Most Identical Twins and Me. (R) **2.25** Slow Joe. (R) **2.30** The Bible: A History. (R) **3.25** Time Team. (R) **4.20** Atlantic. (R) **4.30** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Sali Mali. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** The Removal Men: Pickfords. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **3.15** Film: Accused at 17. (2009) Premiere. Drama, starring Cynthia Gibb. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Holiday Heaven on Earth. San Antonio, The Hague and Quebec. **7.30** How Do They Do It?; (R) 5 News Update. **8.00** The Da Vinci Shroud – Revealed; (R) 5 News at 9. **9.00** Film: The Transporter. (2002) Action adventure, starring Jason Statham. **10.55** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Inside Hollywood. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino. **3.55** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** HouseBusters. (R)

Friday

BBC1 **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** A Picture of Health. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. **11.00** Doorstep Crime 999. **11.30** Cowboy Trap; BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News; Weather. **1.45** Doctors. **2.15** The Indian Doctor. **3.00** BBC News; Weather; Regional News. **3.05** CBBC. **5.15** Pointless. **6.00** BBC News; Weather. **6.30** Regional News Programmes; Weather. **7.00** The One Show; BBC News; Regional News. **8.00** EastEnders. **8.30** Room 101. **9.00** New Tricks. (R) **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** The Graham Norton Show. **11.20** The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. **11.30** Film: The Haunting. (1999) Horror remake, starring Liam Neeson. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.20** Bees, Butterflies and Blooms. (R) **3.20** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2 **6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** CBeebies. **11.30** BBC World News. **12.00** Daily Politics. **1.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.30** To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) **2.15** Weakest Link. **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Perfection. (R) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. **6.00** Eggheads. **6.30** My Life in Books. **7.00** The Culture Show. **8.00** Mastermind. **8.30** Mastermind. **9.00** Melvyn Bragg on Class & Culture. **10.00** QI. (R) **10.30** Newsnight. **11.00** The Review Show. **11.45** Weather. **11.50** Film: Hard Candy. (2006) Thriller, with Patrick Wilson and Ellen Page. **1.30** The Culture Show. (R) **2.30** BBC News. **4.50** Close.

ITV1 **6.00** Daybreak. **8.30** Lorraine. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.55** Regional News; Weather. **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **3.00** The Alan Titchmarsh Show. **3.59** Regional Weather. **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** The Chase. **6.00** Regional News; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **8.00** Safari Vet School. **8.30** Coronation Street. **9.00** Benidorm. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.30** Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Lethal Weapon. (1987) Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. **12.35** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Film: Half Light. (2006) Supernatural thriller, starring Demi Moore. **4.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **9.55** Three in a Bed. (R) **11.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **12.00** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R) **12.30** Film: Objective, Burma! (1945) Second World War adventure, starring Errol Flynn. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Coach Trip. **6.00** The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.30** 4thought.tv. **7.35** Come Dine with Me. **8.30** New Girl. **9.00** The Bank Job. **10.00** The Mad Bad Ad Show. **10.50** Rude Tube: Extreme Rides. (R) **11.50** 10 O'Clock Live. (R) **12.45** Film: Election. (2005) Crime thriller, starring Simon Yam. **2.25** Random Acts. **2.30** My Name Is Earl. (R) **3.15** Hung. (R) **4.10** The Lobster Club. (R) **4.20** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.00** Paraphernalia. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 **6.00** Milkshake! **9.15** The Wright Stuff. **11.10** LIVE with Gabby. **12.10** 5 News Lunchtime. **12.15** The Removal Men: Pickfords. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **3.10** Film: Perfect Romance. (2004) Romantic drama, with Kathleen Quinlan and Henry Ian Cusick. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** Home and Away. (R) **6.30** 5 News. **7.00** Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol; (R) 5 News. **8.00** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. New series. A driver tries to move London's Piccadilly Lights; 5 News at 9. **9.00** The Mentalist. Red John targets an FBI agent. **10.00** Castle. The race is on to solve two murders. **10.55** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Logan and Falacci investigate the murder of an obstetrician. (R) **11.55** Inside Hollywood. **12.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.55** Motorsport Mundial. **4.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** HouseBusters. (R)

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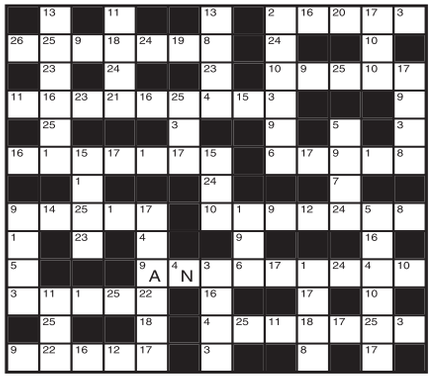
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4 N	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9 A	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 T	2 Y	3 B	4 X	5 H	6 U	7 G	8 A	9 C	10 L	11 S	12 V	13 W
14 E	15 I	16 M	17 P	18 J	19 Q	20 N	21 Z	22 R	23 O	24 F	25 D	26 K

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1 & 10 Dn. Continuing a stage career and maintaining one's respectability (7,2,11)
8. Falstaff's follower is no young man, initially (3)
9. Carried away, being unusually ardent about games (11)
11. Somehow parries the weapons (7)
12. Don't dissent from an idea that a vice is unending (5)
13. Works hard and produces new stock (6)
15. They produce berries for those who have grown old in office (6)
17. What may be raised in the National Army (5)
18. Is included in a requirement for the making of cordial (7)
20. Frozen to the core? (4-7)
22. Don't stand for prevarication (3)
23. Horticultural plot is surrounding a cluster of flowers (9)

Down

2. To go off the track produces a bit of hesitation, we hear (3)
3. Publication is associated with ill-use (5)
4. A bird complaint (6)
5. This may cause one to tip up before autumn! (7)
6. Backing for financial authorisation (11)
7. I'm urged to be deeply affected (9)
10. See 1 Across
11. Set up mother with a stage part - a long, rambling piece (9)
14. Delay sentence on an old convict (4-3)
16. A flat metal ring used in the laundry (6)
19. Vexed by one assessment (5)
21. A long time in the Upper Andes (3)

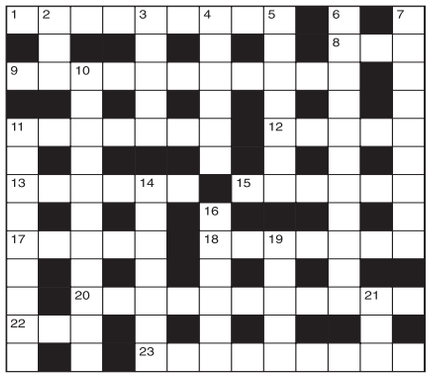
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Controlling device (9)
8. Unity (3)
9. Dejected (11)
11. Anger (7)
12. Fragrance (5)
13. Opportunity (6)
15. Lax (6)
17. Consumed (5)
18. Snare (7)
20. Deceit (11)
22. Woman in religious order (3)
23. Infamy (9)

Down

2. Make a mistake (3)
3. Language of ancient Rome (5)
4. Journey (6)
5. To free (7)
6. Merge (11)
7. Practice (9)
10. Charm (11)
11. Harsh (9)
14. Include (7)
16. Short burst of speed (6)
19. Of them (5)
21. Fix (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Assets; 8 Alight; 10 Neutron; 11 Piece; 12 Work; 13 Bored; 17 Seams; 18 Mean; 22 Moral; 23 Noisome; 24 Second; 25 Planes. Down: 1 Bad news; 2 Estuary; 3 Story; 4 Slipper; 5 Ogres; 6 Other; 9 In command; 14 Telling; 15 Recount; 16 Inverse; 19 Amass; 20 Brace; 21 Wills. QUICK - Across: 7 Amount; 8 Quaint; 10 Monster; 11 Treat; 12 Sled; 13 Antic; 17 Tepid; 18 Dawn; 22 Ideal; 23 Avarice; 24 Assent; 25 Morass. Down: 1 Palmist; 2 Pointer; 3 Unite; 4 Sustain; 5 Liken; 6 State; 9 Principal; 14 Telling; 15 Capital; 16 Intense; 19 Final; 20 Lease; 21 Wagon.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

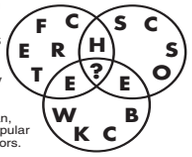
9				1		6		
	7		8				9	2
		8	6		3			7
3				7		9		
6		9				1		8
		1			8			3
4			5	8	7	2		
5	6				9		4	
		2		4				

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	2	1	6	9	8	7	4	3
7	4	6	2	3	1	5	8	9
3	9	8	5	4	7	1	2	6
2	5	4	3	8	9	6	7	1
9	1	3	7	2	6	8	5	4
6	8	7	4	1	5	9	3	2
8	3	9	1	5	2	4	6	7
4	6	5	9	7	3	2	1	8
1	7	2	8	6	4	3	9	5

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is L. Carroll, Pullman, Rowling, all popular children's authors.

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Extended house on market for £184,950

SITUATED on the popular Valleyfields development in Kingswinford, this extended property is on the market priced at £184,950.

The house in Mayfair Drive has been altered to provide two first floor bedrooms with the master having an en-suite shower room, and the option of a ground floor third bedroom which could also be used as a separate dining room/sitting room.

It is very well placed for the area's excellent local schooling together with good access to the centre of Kingswinford with its range of shops, restaurants, regular transport services and other amenities.

The house, close to open countryside as well as to easy access via the A449 to Kidderminster, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton, also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

On the ground floor the reception hall, 13ft 8in by 6ft 5in, has stairs to the first floor and a useful understairs cupboard with a door to the lounge – 16ft 11in by 9ft 9in – with a gas fire with feature fireplace surround. The fitted dining kitchen measuring 15ft by 9ft 9in has a range of units with roll edge work surfaces with a stainless steel sink unit with mixer tap, integrated hob with cooker hood over, integrated double oven, plumbing for automatic washing machine, recess for tumble dryer, space for dining furniture and patio door to rear garden.

Contact estate agent Taylors on 01384 401777 to arrange a viewing.

Taylors is handling the sale of this property in the popular Valleyfields area

Property in private road for £410,000

A stylish, individually built detached home in an exclusive private road in north Worcestershire, with superb countryside views to the front, has come on to the property market priced at £410,000. Brandwood, in Hernes Nest, Bewdley, Wyre Forest, was built by the present owners around 12 years ago and is fitted throughout to the highest standard.

This particularly sought after residential location off Park lane has tremendous views to the West Midlands Safari Park and over as far as Clent.

The property is built in split level style with integral garage and steps leading up to the front door, covered by a porch entrance opening to a reception hall with stairway off to the gallery landing.

On this level is the principal bedroom with archway through to a full dressing room and onwards to a Victorian-style five piece bathroom, bedrooms two and three both with fitted wardrobes (bedroom three is currently used as a study), shower room and spacious utility, walk-in storage cupboard, door through to patio and staircase down to integral garage, vacuum system and workshop area.

Waterfall

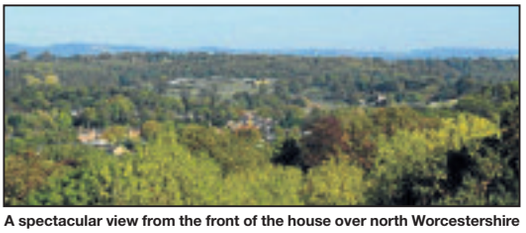
From the main reception hall an impressive staircase leads to the gallery landing measuring 18ft 7in by 15ft 2in, cloakroom and feature lounge/dining room with central brick chimney breast fitted with log burner on raised hearth.

The dining kitchen, 24ft by 14ft 11in, is fitted with an extensive range of pine wall and base cupboards, granite work surfaces, central island unit with Belfast sink plus additional sink and Range-style cooker with double oven, four ring hob, hot plate and griddle with extractor over. There is also a walk-in pantry with fitted shelving.

Doors from the kitchen lead out onto the balcony with steps into the terraced garden which is particularly private featuring a raised pond and waterfall, whilst at the top of the garden is a pergola and summer house. There is also a potting shed complete with mains water and power, leading through to the greenhouse.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01562 747755 or visit the website at **www.allanmorris.co.uk**

The Bewdley property's lounge/dining room divided by a chimney breast



A spectacular view from the front of the house over north Worcestershire

Brandwood, in Hernes Nest, Bewdley, is on the market with Kidderminster agent Allan Morris & Jones for £410,000

Select Property Management Ltd

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FOR SALE £55000
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An ideal first purchase/investment opportunity benefits include, Well Maintained Communal Grounds, Off Road Parking and Security Entry System.
Viewing by appointment only on 01384 277701.

KINGSWINFORD NEW

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FOR SALE 145,000
FOR SALE : Semi Detached Property in quiet backwater, within close proximity of Kingswinford Village.
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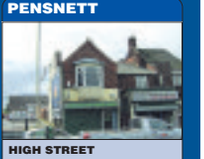

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LOST—White Persian Cat, old and timid, from Perton Brook Vale, any information call 01902 765176. Thank you.

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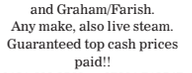

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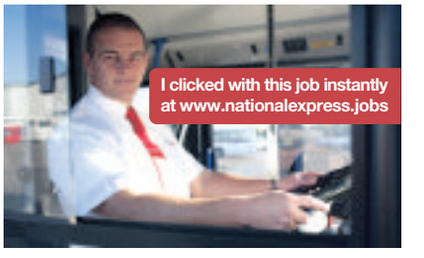

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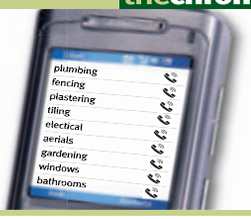

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Meet the hybrid diesel with plenty of promise

By Iain Dooley

THE CONCEPT of a hybrid vehicle is no longer new. We have Toyota to thank for the broad acceptance of cars that run on electric as well as petrol power. However, it's the choice of engine that has put some people off.

Petrol power is fine if the fuel is cheap. This goes someway to explaining why Toyota – and Honda – hybrids have been so successful in North America.

Sadly our 'special relationship' has yet to extend to convincing our cousins across the water that diesel is better.

And that's why diesel hybrids have been absent from the price lists; the American market is the biggest and the most influential.

That's about to change, however, with the introduction of Peugeot's 3008 Hybrid4.

Based on a standard 3008, Peugeot has connected an electric powertrain to the car's rear wheels.

In an instant you've got an all-wheel drive family crossover vehicle, but you've also got a car that can travel for a mile or so on electric power alone.

In the right conditions it will also pull away from rest in electric mode, reducing the amount of fuel you use and boosting throttle response.

So how does it all work? In simple terms the 3008 Hybrid4 packs a conventional four-cylinder diesel motor under its bonnet. In this case, it's Peugeot's higher-output 163 horsepower unit.

At the back is the aforementioned electric motor arrangement. This motor can deliver up to the equivalent of 37 horsepower.

The battery pack is automatically charged without the need to plug it in somewhere like with a conventional electric vehicle.

The regenerative process happens when you're off the throttle, and is most obvious from the stronger than usual engine braking – around town it's noticeable that you need to use the brakes less when coasting to a stop. The two power units' connection with the real world is by Peugeot's clutchless manual gearbox.

This will be a familiar unit to Peugeot fans and, while it does have its quirks, with the addition of electric power the automated gear changes feel smoother than in a conventional car.

Out on the road, the 3008 Hybrid4 behaves almost like a regular 3008.

The immediate tell-tale sign is when you turn the key, as not much happens in the noise department.

Whine

With the default start-up mode electric, it's possible to pull away with just the distant whine of the electric motor.

If the car detects more power is required, the diesel engine fires into life.

From then on, it's just like driving a diesel-powered 3008, that is until you stop as that's when the engine stops.

Move off and, if there's enough battery charge, you'll power away in electric mode and start the automatic power-juggling cycle again. If there's one thing the hybrid variant does share with its conventional 3008 cousin, it's a rotary controller allowing you to change transmission modes.

To counter the need for a genuinely costly all-wheel drive system, Peugeot adopted a traction control system dubbed Grip Control. The Hybrid4 model goes a step further; you can switch between all electric (EV), power, auto and 4x4 modes.

Of course, 'forcing' the car into EV mode will only last for as long as there's sufficient charge in the battery, which means driving gently to achieve the 'couple of miles' goal.

The flipside is the power mode, which unleashes everything the 3008 has for maximum acceleration and performance, while the 4x4 mode engages the rear axle for added traction on slippery grass and muddy tracks.

Predictably, leaving the car in the auto mode seems to work well during general driving duties.

The technical competence demonstrated by the 3008 Hybrid4 is but one element of its appeal.

Peugeot readily admits that its focus is on company car drivers as, with the base specification car outputting 99g/km CO2, the tax benefits will be attractive. Also, there's the ability to offset the full cost of the car against company profits in the first year of ownership.

Not bad for a five-seat, 200 horsepower high-rise hatchback with the same kit as a regular 3008 plus Peugeot's recently improved build quality and premium cabin ambience.

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CHRONICLE MOTORING Powered by motors.co.uk

The new Fiat Panda goes on sale this month. There is a choice of three models – Pop, Easy and Lounge

There are high hopes for Fiat's new Panda motor

THE NEW Fiat Panda range will start at less than £9,000 when it goes on sale at the end of the month.

At £8,900 on the road, the entry-level five-door Panda Pop is comparable to its rivals. The price will rise to £12,250 for a range-topping diesel Lounge model. The third, mid-range trim option is called Easy.

There will also be three familiar engine choices to begin with, including a 69bhp 1.2-litre, the brilliant 0.9-litre 84bhp TwinAir two-cylinder turbo, and a 75bhp 1.3-litre MultiJet diesel.

Standard kit on basic Pop models includes electric windows, central locking, electric power steering, four airbags and body-coloured bumpers. ESP is not standard, though, and would need to be added as an optional extra.

Upgrading to Easy trim brings remote central locking, air conditioning, roof rails and a better stereo, while finally Lounge receives heated electric mirrors, 15-in alloy wheels, front fog lamps, body-coloured mirrors, door handles and side mouldings.

Collision

The options list allows for two more airbags to be added, as well as a low-speed collision mitigation system that brakes the car automatically at less than 18.6mph if the forward-facing sensors detect an imminent impact.

Fiat is gunning for results in allowing customers to personalise the Panda to a very high degree. The options list is long, but buyers might find that the overall cost can escalate quickly.

"I'm delighted that we remain highly competitive against our key rivals in this small car sector," says Elena Bernardelli, marketing director at Fiat Group Automobiles UK.

"We are particularly good value when you take into consideration the levels of equipment offered in standard specification across the range."

There are better-equipped cars in the price bracket, however, which may have more appeal to buyers' minds. Fiat is likely to be hoping that the new Panda's cute styling wins hearts instead.

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The popular Volkswagen Golf 1.2TSi 105 S is available with a £299 Advance Payment

It's time to get moving

MOTABILITY, the leading car scheme for disabled people, has a great range of 2,000 cars in its current 2012 price list.

Disabled motorists can now choose from over 300 cars at no Advance Payment, meaning there's no upfront additional cost when leasing a reliable new car through Motability.

The iconic MINI 1.6 One, compact Toyota Yaris 1.33VVT-I TR and nippy Kia Venga 1.6 2 are all currently available with no Advance Payment.

While for those that require more room, larger vehicles such as the spacious Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LT, the popular Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusiv and the stylish Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec are also all available with no Advance Payment.

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can simply exchange this weekly payment – currently around £50 a week – for a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are also included.

Other vehicles available with no Advance Payment include the punchy Peugeot 308 HDi 92 Active and the reliable Hyundai i20 1.4 CRDi Comfort.

A wide range of greener vehicles with emissions of 120 grams of CO2 per km or less, are available including the sporty SEAT Leon 1.6TDI Ecomotive S Copa and the economical SKODA Fabia 1.2TDI GreenLine II. Both are available with no Advance Payment.

Mike Betts, chief executive, Motability Operations explains: "This is our first Price Guide following the streamlining of the Scheme's range which was announced in October 2011. Despite the reduction in the size of the list, the most popular cars chosen by Motability customers, including automatics, estates and diesels continue to be available and there are hundreds of cars that have no Advance Payment. ."

From now, the core range of vehicles from Motability all have an Advance Payment of £2,000 or below, together with diesel, estate and automatic versions of those models.

This means that the most popular cars continue to be offered, such as the "WHATCAR? of the Year 2011" – the Audi A1 1.2TFSI SE – available at £199 Advance Payment.

Other models, such as the popular Volkswagen Golf 1.2TSi 105 S, with air conditioning, and the spacious Honda New Civic 1.4i-VTEC SE are both available at £299 Advance Payment.

● For more information visit the car search tool at motability.co.uk or call 0800 093 1000.

First glimpse of new Vauxhall Astra VXR

The new Vauxhall Astra VXR, which is based on the GTC, will go on display at the Geneva Motor Show

INITIAL details of the next Vauxhall Astra VXR have been released, including power outputs, top speed and equipment.

The car will be based on the Astra GTC, which has already acquired a fine reputation for handling.

Powered by a 276bhp 2.0-litre engine that also pushes out 295lb/ft of torque, its top speed is 155mph – although it's not yet known whether this is organic or limited.

It will feature a mechanical limited-slip differential in conjunction with Vauxhall's HiPerStrut (High Performance Strut) suspension system to create massive cornering grip, and it's safe to assume an attempt will be made on the front-wheel-drive Nurburgring lap record in due course.

Also standard will be the FlexRide adaptive suspension system, which incorporates Sport and VXR buttons in order to offer two different stages of harder, more aggressive damping, steering and throttle response settings.

Aggressive

Two exhausts and a swooping boot spoiler give identity to the rear end, while a revised grille is more aggressive at the front.

The Astra VXR will go on display at the Geneva Motor Show, which opens to the press on March 6.

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Shootout agony in Trophy for Old Hales

Old Halesonians 4
Shrewsbury 4
(Shrews win 4-3 on penalty strokes)

OLD HALESONIANS Mixed XI went out of the England Hockey Mixed Trophy in the first round after a penalty shootout.

The home team worked hard both on and off the pitch, clearing the surface of overnight snow to ensure Sunday's game could go ahead.

The game started with good passages of play from both sides, who were showcasing the best of their men's and ladies' teams. Hales soon took the lead in sublime fashion. Striker Jim Gurmin received the ball at the top of the D, under pressure from the diving Shrewsbury keeper whom he lobbed to make it 1-0.

At half-time captain Paul Woodall substituted himself which left the home side vulnerable in defence.

Shrewsbury capitalised with three quick goals, one of them following a mistake by Old Hales goalkeeper James Jones.

He misjudged a through ball from Shrewsbury which rebounded off the post, leaving the Shrewsbury striker with an easy tap-in.

Wonder

Hales' Stacey Twist cut the deficit when her wonder strike made it 3-2.

Hales then equalised when the umpire awarded the home side a penalty stroke.

Chris Whiley duly stepped up and powered the shot into the top corner.

The game was turning into a thriller and, with both teams tiring, chances were coming thick and fast for both sides. Shrewsbury took the lead again with 10 minutes remaining. Two minutes later Jim Gurmin grabbed his second of the game, to send the match to penalty strokes.

So, a thrilling fixture would be decided through the lottery of penalty strokes. In the best of five, both teams scored their first three, with Paul Woodall, Laura Underhill and Doug Houghton all finding the net for the home side. Twist then had her effort saved, but Hales keeper Jones saved the next Shrewsbury effort.

At 3-3 after four strokes, Chris Whiley flicked the ball high over the goal and Shrewsbury then scored their final penalty stroke.

Five-star Glassboys bounce back to form

Stourbridge 5 Bashley 0

STOURBRIDGE returned to winning ways with a convincing home success.

Despite the loss of top scorer Ryan Rowe to Kidderminster Harriers, Stourbridge ended up with five different goalscorers in a real team performance on Saturday.

Stourbridge had the better of the early chances with Sam Rock going close to giving the home side the lead on 12 minutes as his close-range header was kept out by Bashley keeper Stewart Kearn.

Six minutes later Stourbridge threatened again as John Griffin controlled a fine through ball from Sean Geddes, but his shot was blocked well by a defender.

The Glassboys' efforts paid off on 21 minutes as Leon Broadhurst marked his 399th appearance with the opening goal.

Paul McCone laid the ball inside to Aaron Drake and he delivered a telling cross into the box which Broadhurst met with a header that beat Kearn and bounced down off the underside of the crossbar. Broadhurst reacted quickly to turn the loose ball over the line.

The hosts almost doubled their lead after 28 minutes as Drake squared the ball across into the path of Rock who drove in a shot.

Two minutes later Rock was again denied by Kearn who touched his rising shot from the left-hand side of the box over the bar.

The visitors could have equalised in the 34th minute when a pass from Dave Allen was pursued by Mark Gamble as Stour keeper Lewis Solly came racing out.

But both players pulled out of a possible collision and the ball was cleared to safety.

Glassboys went close to another before the break with Drake screwing a low shot wide.

John Griffin went close to a second a minute after the restart when he hit a dipping shot that dropped wide, but Bashley's Gary Middleton stabbed a chance over on 49 minutes.

Nine minutes later, Stourbridge grabbed a second as Geddes swept the ball out to Rock whose shot struck the left-hand post. In the ensuing scramble the ball broke for Billingham to bundle home.

Stourbridge extended their lead in the 62nd minute.

A poor goal-kick from Kearn was headed forward by Drake and Griffin slipped the ball past Kearn.

Rock capped a fine showing with the Glassboys' fourth goal on 74 minutes, tucking away a low shot.

Five minutes from time it was five when Dyson centred the ball low across the six-yard box for sub Linden Dovey to net.

Bashley were denied a consolation two minutes later as Carl Foster shot against Solly's left-hand post and the rebound was cleared off the line.

Club's fighting chance with £50,000 grant

SEVEN years of hard graft by Dudley's Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club has been rewarded with £50,000 from Sport England to train the next generation of young fighters.

by Craig Birch

Head trainer Paul Gough was presented with the cheque at the club's base on Priory Road when Dudley North MP Ian Austin was also present.

Bosses plan to expand the site to nearly twice its original size and allow more youngsters to use the club. More than 100 are currently on the waiting list.

A second main room will provide an additional ring, more punch and speed bags, along with the capacity to hold more than one class at a time.

The bulk of the money had already been raised thanks to James Dickens, chief executive of Edgbaston-based property developers Hackett & James.

Contributed

Dickens will be using his influence to get the work done at the lowest possible price, helped by the cash from Sport England.

Priory Park ABC has been a part of the town since the late 1970s and Gough has seen it all since taking over in 1994, along with cousin Steve.

The 46-year-old described a scene of "leaking roof, split bags, a ring that was falling to bits and a sodden floor" when he first arrived.

He said: "Myself and the committee feel that this award is very beneficial to the development of the club and the wider community.

"It will enable us to extend the current gym, clear the existing waiting list and take on new members in the future.

"Our plans can now come to fruition. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank those who have contributed to this project."

Priory Park ABC has been churning out fighters for more than 30 years and, since 2008, has been bridging the gap from amateur to pro ranks as well. Dudley's Ryan Aston and Coseley's Tommy Ghent are their leading lights, ex-amateurs from the club who now box for Matchroom Sport.

They are the men in the street for whom boxing is a way of life and MP Austin is delighted he has been able to work with them. He said: "We have worked really hard to put this bid together.

"Paul Gough and his team do a fantastic job keeping youngsters fit and healthy, off the streets and out of trouble. Back in 2005, I promised the people of the Priory I would do all I could to help the club."

Sport England facilities manager Ian Silvera, left, and MP Ian Austin hand the £50,000 cheque for improvements to Priory Park ABC head coach Paul Gough as other members of the club look on. *Picture: David Hamilton*

Late goals win it to cheer up Robins

Lye Town 0 Dudley Town 2

TWO late goals earned Dudley Town their first away victory of 2012.

The enforced two-week weather break had allowed Robins boss Andy Burgess to strengthen his injury-hit side with a trio of signings.

In came former Atherstone Town defender Jim Greenthorpe along with Brett McGilligan who had made a Friday night switch from Lye.

The two started on the bench while the third signing from Lithuanian Premier club FBK Kaunas, Martynas Normontas, was unavailable.

It didn't take long for Dudley to go close. A sixth-minute corner from Danny Ludlow rattled Steve Jackson's crossbar although the rebound was skied over.

Dudley's Rob Whitley had the best opportunity of the lot when he drove a loose ball wide of the post.

Scare

A fine cross-goal header from Alex Perry was parried wide by Lye keeper Steve Jackson after 62 minutes.

Dudley suffered a scare when Lye Town substitute Duane Darby broke free on the left and delivered a delightful ball into the path of Matt Webb whose shot could only rattle Travalen's post.

But they deservedly took the lead on 75 minutes. A fine low cross from Cox allowed Dreniz Bala to set up Nikki Faux who made no mistake in neatly rolling the ball past Jackson for his ninth goal of the season.

The Robins got a deserved second goal on the brink of full-time. A fine clearance from full-back Steve Edmunds let Bala break through and Dudley's top scorer added to his tally.

Hands hat-trick as Stour romp

Stourbridge Juniors U12 8
Warley Albion 2

STOURBRIDGE played their best football of the season in this victory.

Liam Hands scored twice in the first period and with goals from Sam Green, Nathaniel Connon and Liam Green the home side were 5-1 up at the interval.

Warley struck early in the second period but Jack Davies responded, Hands completed his hat-trick and Cory Allen rounded off the scoring.

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SPORT

Fighting chance
Boxing club to expand with £50,000 grant
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Fighting back
Glassboys bounce back to top form
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Olympics pool trials for swim club aces

THREE Stourbridge Swimming Club stars will be making their way to the Aquatics Centre at the Olympic Park in London next month for the 2012 Olympic Swimming Trials.

Rich Spoor will be competing in the breaststroke, with Becki Cole and Britt Horton both racing in backstroke events.

Spoor and Cole made the trials for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but for Horton this is her first experience of trials at the age of 13.

Horton is currently ranked second in the country in her age group for 100m backstroke and fourth for the 200m back, with Spoor 16th and Cole third and fourth in her age group events.

The week-long event is the qualifying meet for the 2012 Olympic Games with the top British athletes competing for their places for the London Games.

With only two places available in each individual event competition will be fierce. The trio will race against the best this country has to offer in a bid to make the 2012 team.

Stourbridge head coach Stew Nicklin said: "This is a fantastic achievement for all three of our swimmers.

"The trials qualifying times were extremely tough to achieve, so to book a place in the Olympic qualifying event is a real credit to all three of these swimmers."

Poulsom is back in the medals

JUST a week after she struck gold at the Kidderminster Samurai Judo Club's Mini-Me Open, Toni Poulsom was in the medals at the Coventry Open.

Two good wins put Poulsom into the final of her weight category where she was edged out by another Samurai player to leave her with silver.

Poulsom, a former member of the now-closed Stourbridge Judo Club, also entered the next weight up and again reached the medal positions, taking bronze.

Most players from the Stourbridge club have moved to the Kidderminster Samurai. The club would welcome any other former Stourbridge players or newcomers to the sport. Call 0776 1122977 or visit the website on www.samurai.org.uk

Connor in frame to take charge at Toon

by Tim Nash

WOLVES caretaker boss Terry Connor has been told to prepare the team for Saturday's clash at Newcastle.

Initially, the club had being confident of appointing Mick McCarthy's successor in time for the Tyneside trip.

But Connor, 49, who is being assisted by development coach Steve Weaver and the backroom staff, has been told by chief executive Jez Moxey to continue preparations with a view to being at the helm for the trip to the north east – subject to a swift appointment being made.

"It was a tough week for everyone last week," said Connor, who has been at Molineux for over 12 years, the last four-and-a-half as assistant manager to McCarthy.

"The lads had to work hard to get through the next few days and it was strange for us all not having the boss around.

"But by Thursday they were back training well.

"They went away at the weekend and I asked them to reflect on what had happened and then come back with it being business as usual, whoever was in charge of training.

"Steve (Morgan, chairman) and Jez (Moxey, chief executive) have asked me to look after it. We'll be preparing the lads as usual for Saturday's game with Newcastle until told otherwise.

"We've got to prove people wrong and hopefully we'll get a chance on Saturday to do that."

Response

Connor admitted the watching public will be looking for a response after the Albion debacle when Wolves lost 5-1 at home to their neighbours.

"We'll be under the microscope and everyone will be looking at us and wondering how we're going to respond," he said.

"We're asking the players to respond positively, like they always have at bad times."

Connor added: "We're all hurting in our own way but we have to show that professionalism in times of hardship and the players know they've got to knuckle down.

"It has to be business as usual and a case of getting the players to smile and enjoy their training again.

"If they do, they'll be better for it come the weekend.

"The only people that can do something about it now are the players and staff – the one person who doesn't get that chance is the gaffer.

"We have the chance to show we're good at our jobs."

LIONS ROARING ON AS SAXONS SLIP UP

STOURBRIDGE SAXONS slipped to a sixth successive defeat – but it's the club's amateur arm, Stourbridge Lions, who hope for their day in the spotlight this weekend.

While the Saxons battle for National League One survival, the Lions play their postponed National Senior Vase semi-final at home to Sleaford on Saturday.

The match was postponed a fortnight ago by winter's icy grip, but now the Lions stand just two games from a Twickenham final. Kick-off is 3pm and admission is free.

As an aperitif for anyone arriving early, Stourbridge Lions Seconds and Thirds are also in home action with local derby Merit table games against Bromsgrove Thirds and Upton-on-Severn Seconds respectively, which both kick off at 2.15pm.

Stourbridge Lions warmed up for their big game with a comprehensive 30-6 league victory over Cleobury Mortimer at Stourton Park on Saturday.

Despite a slow start against a fast young Cleobury team, the Lions drew first blood with a try from centre Will Ballard after a thunderous run from wing Arron Clifford, with the conversion added from wide out by back row turned centre Harry Wainwright.

Impressive

The Lions pack took a firm grip at this point.

They were inspired by veteran No.8 Chris Simcox, recently returned from injury.

If Simcox was the catalyst then the star of this particular forward display was prop Jim Owen who notched a hat-trick of close-range tries which secured both the victory and the four-try bonus point in the process.

Harry Wainwright again slotted a conversion and two penalties before Cleobury closed out the game with two late penalties of their own.

A pre-game meal is available at the club on Saturday, one course £8.95 or two courses £10.95. Call the club office on 01384 395000 for details.

Stourbridge RFC

Stourbridge 18 Cinderford 25

A determined second-half display came too late to save the Saxons.

Tries from flanker Tom Leach and flying winger Jamie Hearn edged them to within seven points but the well-drilled Forest of Dean side kept their line intact despite having two players in the sin bin late on.

A brace of early Rory Teague penalties handed Cinderford a platform and they then bagged the opening try when back row George Evans picked up from the base of a scrum to twist his way over the line.

Trailing 11-0, the Saxons challenge began with a snaking run from Hearn before the winger lost his footing after leaving two players sprawled.

Nathan Bressington was able to squeeze over in the corner after a rolling maul on the opposite flank, Matt Williams timing his pass to the winger to perfection.

But this was instantly cancelled out when the visitors were awarded a penalty try, Teague slotting over.

Hearn kicked a 40th minute penalty for Saxons but there was to be another twist with the final move of the half when a huge hit from Sam Wilkes on Stourbridge hooker Liam Wordley saw the ball fly loose and Cinderford centre Simeon James gathered to run 40 metres to the line.

Teague's conversion stretched the lead to 17 points and that proved too much for Mitchell's men despite a determined second half performance that saw them run in two unanswered tries.

Flanker Tom Leach was driven over for the first of these on 47 minutes, the Saxons pack finally getting the better of their visitors.

Wave after wave of pressure kept the Foresters pinned in their own 22 but without a cutting edge, the home side were unable to break through.

The impressive Hearn finished off a sweet back move by scampering 40 metres to the line midway through the half but that was as close as Stourbridge were to get.

Yellow cards for Cinderford pair Rob Winchle and Tom Heard should have been enough to allow the Saxons in but there was still no way through.

Lions prop Jim Owen, who grabbed three tries against Cleobury Mortimer

Time to go says Rowe over move to Harriers

STOURBRIDGE striker Ryan Rowe transferred to Kidderminster Harriers and admitted the time was right to "move on" from the Glassboys.

Harriers finally landed their man last week after a chase that started last summer and Rowe now becomes a full-time footballer for the first time.

It took a five-figure transfer fee to prise him away from the Glassboys.

And Harriers, who made four offers for the player, handed him a two-and-a-half-year deal.

The 23-year-old has given up his job as a road worker in the process after shooting to prominence with Gary Hackett's men during this season's FA Cup run.

Football League clubs were also registering an interest in the striker, who scored 73 goals in 146 games for Stourbridge.

And Forest Green were also interested.

Leaders

But Harriers made a firm offer and Rowe insists that working under boss Steve Burr and assistant Gary Whild was his first choice outside the Football League.

"Over the last month there has been a lot of speculation about where I was going," he said.

"It was a big relief and it lifts a bit of a weight off my shoulders, because I've wanted to move on and I'm glad it's happened.

"I'm a local lad and I made it clear to the gaffer and Gary once I spoke to them that, certainly in this league, this is the only club I wanted to sign for.

"Now I'm here, I can at least concentrate on my football, get my head down, work hard and do the business on the pitch," added Rowe.

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